MARVEL
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THE OFFICIAL MARVEL® NEWS MAGAZINE!
MARVEL AGE®
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5-PAGE PREVIEW OF THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK™
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SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE!
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STAN LEE PRESENTS

MARVEL AGE®

SALICRUP'S SECTION

Season's greetings, true believers! It's me, the one and only Supreme Marvel Zombie, back to babble and blather at you anew. First, I gotta thank **Merry Gerry Conway** for calling my bluff and writing last issue's Salicrup's Section. Gerry really was waiting to go to lunch, and I was getting all choked up at MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's sixth anniversary. You wouldn't believe what a sentimental slob I can be at times. Anyway, thanks again, Ger!

Last issue also included the debut of THE MARVEL IMAGE CATALOG. We're waiting to hear your reaction, but in the meantime I thought of a few other X-Mas gift ideas for your consideration. First off, JACK KIRBY'S HEROES AND VILLAINS, which we featured in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #65, is still available from Pure Imagination Publishing, 88 Lexington Avenue, Suite 9-C, New York, NY 10016. For a mere $60.00 postpaid, you'll receive a hardcover facsimilie of the King's own sketch book featuring page after page of power-packed pin-up shots of all your favorites from Kirby's Kast of Karacters! Only 1,000 copies were published and each one is signed and numbered by **Jack Kirby** himself. It's an incredible collector's item as well as a breath-taking work of art! Don't just tell 'em Marvel sent ya, mention that **Jim Salicrup** begged you to buy it for your own good!

And that's not all, for the past year whenever I've worn my Marvel Comics jacket in public I've been plagued by pleading Marvelities wanting to purchase it for their very own. Regrettably I've had to mumble, while I've tried to slip away, that the jacket was for Marvel staffers only. Well, at last saner heads prevailed and the jackets are now available to anyone willing to part with $75.00! We've been running the ads here in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE for the past couple of months, and I can't resist revealing that that's none other than **Fabulous Fabian Nicieza** in the **Spider-Man** costume modeling the Marvel jacket.

We've also been offering the unbelievable MARVEL UNIVERSE poster to one and all through our mail order ads. The behind-the-scenes story is that so many people responded to our MARVEL UNIVERSE contest demanding to purchase the poster — many going so far as to include checks and money orders — that we were forced to comply with your demands! Just goes to show ya — you are our real bosses!

So on that note, have a happy '89 all you bosses out there!

—Jim Salicrup

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Here's a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Epic, New Universe, and Marvel U.K. titles shipping in January.

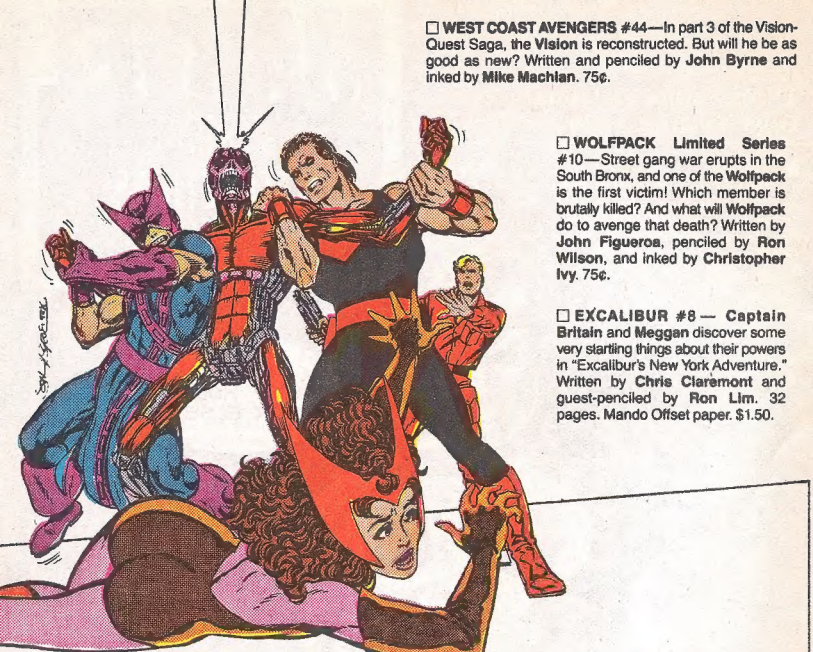
MARVEL® COMING ATTRACTIONS

Titles Shipping January 3
On Sale January 24

■ DAREDEVIL #266—It's Christmas in New York City and the lost souls of the No Exit Bar in Hell's Kitchen are drowning their sorrows with Daredevil, their erstwhile savior. "A Beer with the Devil" is written by Ann Nocenti, penciled by John Romita Jr., and inked by Al Williamson. 75¢

Cover illustration from the PUNISHER Hardcover.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS** #44—In part 3 of the Vision-Quest Saga, the **Vision** is reconstructed. But will he be as good as new? Written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Mike Machlan**. 75¢.



☐ **WOLFPACK Limited Series** #10—Street gang war erupts in the South Bronx, and one of the **Wolfpack** is the first victim! Which member is brutally killed? And what will **Wolfpack** do to avenge that death? Written by **John Figueroa**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Christopher Ivy**. 75¢.

☐ **EXCALIBUR** #8 — **Captain Britain** and **Meggan** discover some very startling things about their powers in "Excalibur's New York Adventure." Written by **Chris Claremont** and guest-penciled by **Ron Lim**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐ **SEMPER FI** #6—Two stories of the Marine Corps as experienced by the **Whittier** family.

Parris Island, March, 1968. See what it's like to be in boot camp with a motivation platoon! "Motivated with Pride" is written by **Michael P. Palladino**, penciled by **Andy Kubert**, and inked by **John Severin**.

Then, in a shocking story set in Hawaii during World War II, **Lyle Whittier** discovers that one of the men in his squad hates him. Unless **Lyle** can change that attitude, **Lyle's** going to wind up killed not by the Japanese, but by a fellow Marine! "Enemy in Green" is written by **Michael P. Palladino** and drawn by **Sam Glanzman**. 75¢.

☐ **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS** #21—**Cobra** gives a whole new meaning to the phrase "street crime" when the **Joes, Tunnel Rat, Airtight, Charbroil, Spearhead,** and **Max**, have to stop **Zandar, Zarana, Buzzer, Roadpig, Toxo-Viper, Hydro-Viper, Televiper, Techno-Viper,** and **Plain Vanilla-Viper** in the tunnel systems beneath the streets of New York City. "The Lower Depths" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Herb Trimpe**, and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE KING** #52—An act of clemency threatens to turn into a palace revolt against the usurper, **King Conan**. How can **King Conan** survive the complex intrigues threatening to destroy him? "Night Vengeance" is written by **Jim Owsley** and drawn by **Geof Isherwood**. Plus: **Prince Conn** faces the greatest challenge of his life in a special story written by **Adam Blaustein** and penciled by **Dale Eaglesham**. Cover by **Mike Kaluta**. 48 pages. $1.50.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #29—You like a tale bursting with heart-stopping suspense? Then this story is for you! The government is about to be betrayed and overthrown! The **Morituri** are all either dead, in prison, or working for the enemy! Who remains that can save mankind? The answer is a shocker! "Dead Reckoning" is written by **James D. Hudnall**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Carlos Garzon**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct sales only. $1.50.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #50—It's a giant-sized anniversary issue! But **Spidey** sure doesn't have anything to celebrate about. He's been photographed "stealing" a valuable jewel by the unscrupulous **Nick Katzenberg**. When the news hits the front page, everyone tries to find out the truth. And when we say everyone, we mean: **Prowler, Puma, Rocket Racer, Sandman, Silver Sable,** and **Will-O'-The-Wisp**! As if that weren't headache enough for **Spidey**, unknown to him, **J. Jonah Jameson** has been "replaced"—by the **Chameleon**! Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. 48 pages. $1.50.

☐ **G.I. JOE EUROPEAN MISSIONS** #8—Talk about your white Christmas! The **Joes** are sent off to Greenland over the holiday to salvage the top secret Omega Project from a crashed plane before **Cobra** can. Trouble is, the **Joes** could find that the Omega Project is more dangerous to them than the deadliest **Cobra** force. "Nuclear Winter" is written by **Steve Alan** and drawn by **Robin Smith**. Mando Offset paper. A Marvel U.K. comic. $1.75.

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☐ **PSI-FORCE** #31—The team is reunited at last! But is the reunion a cause for celebration—or bitter recrimination? Written by **Fabian Nicieza**, penciled by **Rodney Ramos**, and inked by **Christopher Ivy**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct sales only. $1.50

☐ **THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK** #1—She's back in her own series again! And her adventures are wackier and wilder than ever! You'll see what we mean when **She-Hulk** tries out for the position of circus strongwoman and falls under the spell of **the Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime**! "Second Chance" is written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. Mando Offset paper. Limited Newsstand Availability. $1.50.

Titles Shipping January 10 On Sale January 31

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #353—**Captain America** has fought the **Supreme Soviet** to a standstill. To the team that is Russia's counterpart to the **Avengers**, the situation is intolerable! Thus **Red Guardian III, Crimson Dynamo IV, Perun, Fantasma,** and **Sputnik** launch their greatest assault—one that will wipe away their shame, and slay **Captain America**! Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, and inked by **Al Migrom**. 75¢.

☐ **SOLO AVENGERS** #18—Two tales of Avengers action!

The **Texas Twister** is back. He's possessed by a blood-mad demon! How can **Hawkeye** stop his tornado-powered rampage? "When You Wish Upon a Star" is written by **Howard Mackie**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Don Heck**.

Plus: The **Vision** must use logic to defeat a murderous madman. But the paradox is that to win, the **Vision** must use methods that defy logic! Written by **Mike Higgins**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Dave Cockrum**. 75¢.

☐ **ALF** #15—**Alf** runs away from the **Tanners**. That's cause for the **Tanners** to celebrate, the world to weep, and you to sit back and have a hilariously good time over **Alf's** misadventures on the road. Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin**. $1.00.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #315—It's **Spidey's** acrobatics and webs against the water wizardry of **Hydro-Man**! Plus: the consequences of **Nathan Lubensky's** gambling get worse. And to make matters even more complicated, **Venom** bursts out of the Vault! Written by **David Michelinie** and illustrated by **Todd McFarlane**. $1.00.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #51—Lovesick **Groo** wants **Chakaal's** heart. Fighting mad **Chakaal** wants **Groo's** head. The only thing that can keep **Groo** from literally embracing death is his dog, faithful **Rufferto**. Is **Rufferto** dog enough to do it? Written and drawn by **Sergio Aragonés**. Heralded by **Mark Evanier**. An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF** #33—When **Heathcliff** and **Iggy** get lost in New York City, the Big Apple might not survive! Written by **Angelo de Cesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. $1.00.

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☐ **D.P.7** #31—**Mastodon** rescues **Scuzz** from a religious cult. That was the easy part. Now **Mastodon** has to figure out how to deprogram him! Plus: **Captain Manhattan** and **Chrome** team up for the first time! Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct sales only. $1.50.

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #19—Four more stories from Marvel's premiere anthology series!

CYCLOPS (Part III)—**Master Mold's** drones kidnap **Banshee** and an innocent girl. Wait'll you see the fight **Banshee** puts up! Written by **Bob Harras**, penciled by **Ron Lim**, and inked by **Bruce Patterson**.

BLACK PANTHER (Part VII)—Now a fugitive in South Africa, the **Black Panther** risks more than his freedom by returning to the one man in South Africa who can help him find his mother. Written by **Don McGregor**, penciled by **Gene Colan**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**.

DOCTOR STRANGE (Part I)—**Doctor Strange** discovers how difficult exorcism can be when he tries to free a house possessed by a demon. Written by **Fabian Nicieza** and drawn by **Mark Badger**.

Plus complete in this issue a special preview of the new DAMAGE CONTROL Limited Series. Written by **Dwayne McDuffie** and drawn by **Ernie Colon**. Bi-weekly. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **WOLVERINE AND HAVOK: MELTDOWN Limited Series** #3—**Wolverine** is convinced that **Havok** is brainwashed. So he's going to beat some sense back into him. The "cure" could turn out to be a real killer! Written by **Walt** and **Louise Simonson** and illustrated by **Kent Williams** and **Jon J Muth**. An Epic comics Graphic Album. Limited Newsstand Availability. 48 pages. $3.50.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #70—**Talisman** is all that stands between the **Dreamqueen** and total victory! Yet even if **Talisman** should somehow win the mystic war, the victory could shatter her soul! ". . .Are But a Dream Within a Dream" is the fourth—and final—chapter in the Wrath of the Dreamqueen saga. Written by **James D. Hudnall**, penciled by **John Calimee**, and inked by **Hilary Barta**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct sales only. $1.50.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #75 — Talk about your power plays—**Magneto** takes on **Sebastian Shaw** for control of the **Hellfire Club**! Who wins? Well, one thing's for sure, it's not the **New Mutants**. They don't like what's been happening to **Magneto**, but if they sever their ties with him, what will they do? "King of the Hill" is written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. $1.00.

☐ **WOLVERINE** #7—Would you rather have the **Hulk** as your friend or your enemy? **Wolverine** has had the gray goliath as an enemy—and he's about to discover that having the **Hulk** as a friend isn't much different! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. Mando Offset paper. 32 pages. $1.50.

☐ **THE 'NAM MAGAZINE** #10—Re-presenting the classic tales from THE 'NAM, the series about the Vietnam War as seen through a soldier's eyes. From THE 'NAM #19: "Milk Run" a tale of a rescue mission in the middle of a war zone. From THE 'NAM #20: "Dominoes" Who fragged **Lt. Alarnick**? Will **Rob Little** go home? Will Vietnam finally fall to the communists? Both tales written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Wayne Vansant**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. A Marvel black and white magazine. $2.00.

☐ **THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #159—**Conan's** run into bad luck of the worst sort—he's been captured and enslaved! Sooner or later he will escape. Conan wants it to be sooner. And it will—if he can make his break for freedom alone! But something's about to make that solo escape impossible. And that something is linked to "The Wheel." Written by **Charles Dixon**, penciled by **Mike Docherty**, and inked by **Dave Simons**. A Marvel black and white magazine. For Mature Readers. $2.00.

☐ **POWER LINE** #6—Someone is slaughtering **Shadow Dwellers** left and right. Who is the killer? Why is he slaying only **Shadow Dwellers**? And who is this killer's ultimate target? This story will have you on the edge of your seat from start to finish! Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark** and drawn by **Gray Morrow**. An Epic comic. Mando Offset paper. 32 pages. $1.50.

☐ **BLOOD** Trade Paperback—The unique limited series of a vampire on a road of self-discovery is now in one stunning volume! If you've a friend who says comics are nothing but kids' stuff—show him this! Written by **J. Marc DeMatteis** and illustrated by **Kent Williams**. From Epic comics. For Mature Readers only. 200 pages. $15.95.

Titles Shipping January 17
On Sale February 7

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #74—A 5-page preview of the new MOON KNIGHT! **John Byrne** has plans for THE AVENGERS! A report on THE ARENA Graphic Novel. Plus: **Stan's** Soapbox, **Mark's** Remarks, **Hembeck's** Page, Marvel Trivia Quiz, Mutant Report, and more. Direct sales only. 50¢.

SUPER-VILLAIN™ CHECKLIST

Chameleon: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #50
Dark Dragon: DOCTOR STRANGE #4
Doctor Octopus: MARVEL TALES #223
Dreamqueen: ALPHA FLIGHT #70
Enchantress: THOR #403
Executioner: THOR #403
Frightful Four: FANTASTIC FOUR #326
Hellfire Club: THE NEW MUTANTS #75
Hydro-Man: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #315
Lobo Brothers: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #150
Mandarin: IRON MAN #242
Master Mold: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #s 19 and 20
Mephisto: DAREDEVIL #266
Nanny: X-FACTOR #40
Orphan Maker: X-FACTOR #40
Proteus: CLASSIC X-MEN #33
Quicksand: THOR #403
Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime: THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK #1
Spyder: THE PUNISHER #19
Super-Nova: THE AVENGERS #303
Supreme Soviet: CAPTAIN AMERICA #353
Texas Twister: SOLO AVENGERS #18
Tombstone: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #150
Venom: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #315

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☐ **JUSTICE** #31—Manhattan is falling apart—literally! And in the chaos, **Justice** must find three agents from the Justice Department who disappeared under mysterious circumstances. Plus: the return of **Seraph** and the debut of the horrifying outcasts called. . .**the Forsaken**! Written by **Peter David** and illustrated by **Lee Weeks**. Mando Offset paper. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.50.

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #223—From AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #88: **Spidey** vs. **Doctor Octopus**! Written by **Stan Lee**, penciled by **John Romita Sr.**, inked by **Jim Mooney**, and a new cover by **Todd McFarlane**. 75¢.

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #303—The **West Coast Avengers**, the **Avengers**, the **Fantastic Four**, and **Quasar** together in the final—and we mean *final*—battle against **Super-Nova**! Plotted by **Mark Gruenwald**, scripted by **Ralph Macchio**, penciled by **Rich Buckler**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #218—**Conan** turns diplomat! And wait'll you see the kind of diplomacy he uses on a horde of **Picts** so that he can have the only transportation off a tiny, barren island—their boat! "Island Life" is written by **Val Semeiks** and **Charles Santino**, penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Alfredo Alcala**. $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #86—Did you know **G.I. Joe** has been around for 25 years? Well he has, and we've got one doozy of an anniversary issue for you! It features **Hawk, Stalker, Lady Jaye, Repeater, Muskrat, Shockwave, Lightfoot,** and **Iron Grenadiers**. It takes place in the Chrysler Building. And it's got some surprising guest-stars, too! "Not Fade Away" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Marshal Rogers**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. $1.00.

☐ **MUPPET BABIES** #25—The **Muppet Babies** decide to create their own animation show! The result is a tour de farce that is a wild combination of art and photographs! Written by **Laura Hitchcock**, penciled by **Marie Severin**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. $1.00.

☐ **THE PUNISHER** #19—The **Punisher** has tracked **Spyder**, the world's deadliest drug smuggler, to one of his lairs. But has the **Punisher** gotten this far because he is smarter than **Spyder**, or because **Spyder** *wants* the **Punisher** to find him? "Spyder" is written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Larry Stroman**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. $1.00.

☐ **THE SILVER SURFER** #23—The **Silver Surfer** must make one of the most anguishing moral choices of his life on an alien planet about to be annihilated by a dragon! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Ron Lim**, and inked by **Tom Christopher**. $1.00.

☐ **THE SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER Limited Series** #7—The **Sub-Mariner** has found the woman he loves! The trouble is, she's the fiancee of **Mr. Fantastic**! What **Prince Namor** does next leads to war with the **Fantastic Four**! Written by **Roy** and **Dann Thomas**, penciled by **Rich Buckler**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. Mando Offset paper. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.50.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #244—In the aftermath of Inferno the **X-Men** must somehow put their lives back together again. But for **Havok**, that may be impossible! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Mark Silvestri**, and inked by **Dan Green**. $1.00

☐ **DRAGON'S CLAWS** #8—The **Evil Dead** return—and this time they've got three new masters of mayhem in their ranks—**Hack, Rend,** and **Slash**. This time their target is the N.U.R.S.E. healing "factory." But when **Dragon's Claws** answer the desperate call for help, they discover that not only must they battle the **Evil Dead**, they must also fight a corrupt N.U.R.S.E. administration! "The Evil Dead Too" is written by **Simon Furmon** and drawn by **Geoff Senior**. Mando Offset paper. A Marvel U.K. comic. $1.75.

☐ **THE LIGHT AND DARKNESS WAR Limited Series** #6—The final conflict! **Lord Na** unveils his most terrible secret. **Lazarus Jones** struggles for a way to cross the veil of death and be reunited with his friends and allies. If he can't, the forces of Light will be crushed! Written by **Tom Veitch** and illustrated by **Cam Kennedy**. An Epic comic. Mando Offset paper. Direct sales only. For Mature Readers only. 32 pages. $1.95.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #355—How do you soothe the savage beast? When it comes to the **Hulk, Glorian** is convinced he has the answer—give him everything he wants. That's exactly what **Glorian** does. Trouble is, the result backfires—and how! "Now You See It. . ." is written by **Peter David** and penciled by **Jeff Purves**. 75¢.

☐ **DAMAGE CONTROL Limited Series #1**—They're Marvel's newest team—a super crew of engineers whose job is to clean up the battlefield mess created by the super heroes and super-villains. They're **Damage Control**. And wait'll you see what they have to do to get a giant robot off the New York City streets. Guest-starring: **Spider-Man, She-Hulk,** and **Thor.** Written by **Dwayne McDuffie**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek.** $1.00.

Titles Shipping January 24 On Sale February 14

☐ **THE TRANSFORMERS** #52—On a mission to a distant space station, the **Autobot Pretenders, Cloudburst** and **Landmine,** are faced with the uncomfortable question "Guess Who The Mecannibals Are Having For Dinner?"—and pray the answer isn't themselves! Written by **Bob Budiansky** and penciled by **Jose Delbo**. $1.00.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #40—**X-Factor** vows to return all the children kidnaped by **Nanny** and **Orphan-Maker**. The trouble is, **Nanny** and **Orphan-Maker** have an iron-clad plan to not only stop them, but to destroy them! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Rob Liefeld**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. $1.00.

☐ **THOR** #403—Talk about your bruising battles—**Thor** is triple-teamed by **Quicksand**, the **Enchantress**, and the **Executioner**! Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. Plus: a special Tales of Asgard story revealing what happened the first time young **Thor** met the young **Sif**! Written by **Tom DeFalco** and penciled by **Gary Tartle**. 75¢.

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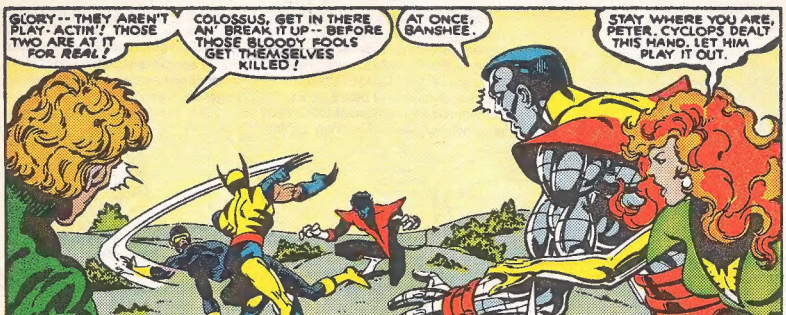
☐ **THE STARBRAND** #19—It's the final issue, and it's filled with surprises! That's all we dare tell you about the searing tale written by **John Byrne**, with breakdowns by **John Byrne** and finished art by **Tom Morgan**. Mando Offset paper. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.50.

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #326—**Reed** and **Sue** return to the **Fantastic Four**! And they're back just in time, because there's a new, deadlier **Frightful Four** in town! As if that weren't problem enough for the **FF**, what's happened to the **Thing** and **Ms. Marvel**? Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. 75¢.

☐ **SPEEDBALL** #9—At last, the secret of **the Ghost of Springdale High** is revealed! The true murderer of **Alex Bow** is found! Why does all the evidence show **Speedball's** parents are the killers? Is there anything **Speedball** can do to save his parents? It's a special 22 page murder mystery plotted by **Steve Ditko**, scripted by **Roger Stern**, and inked by **Bruce Patterson**. 75¢.

☐ **DINO-RIDERS** #3—Two tales of science in the Age of Dinosaurs! In the first, **Questar's** brother becomes a guinea pig for genetic experiments that could change the future of the **Dino-Riders**! Plus: the noble **Valorians** and the evil **Rulons** launch a do-or-die battle for the ultimate prize! Written by **George Caragonne**, penciled by **Kelley Jones**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. $1.00.


GLORY -- THEY AREN'T PLAY-ACTIN'! THOSE TWO ARE AT IT FOR REAL!
COLOSSUS, GET IN THERE AN' BREAK IT UP -- BEFORE THOSE BLOODY FOOLS GET THEMSELVES KILLED!
AT ONCE, BANSHEE.
STAY WHERE YOU ARE, PETER. CYCLOPS DEALT THIS HAND. LET HIM PLAY IT OUT.
WHAT?!

☐ **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #20—The bi-weekly anthology action continues!

CYCLOPS (Part IV)—It's a race against time as **Morlo** frantically tries to stop **Master Mold** before he releases his plague germs on mutantkind! Written by **Bob Harras**, penciled by **Ron Lim**, and inked by **Bruce Patterson**.

BLACK PANTHER (Part III)—The **Black Panther**. . .trapped! Written by **Don McGregor**, penciled by **Gene Colan**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**.

DOCTOR STRANGE (Conclusion)—**Doctor Strange** discovers what he must do to exorcise the demon out of a suburban house. But is he willing to pay the terrible price demanded? Written by **Fabian Nicieza** and drawn by **Mark Badger**.

Plus complete in this issue: **Clea** discovers that the responsibilities of ruling the Dark Dimension can be a killer! Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Ron Lim**, and inked by **Jim Sanders**. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #24—From SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #s 8 and 10, part three of the acclaimed adaptation of the novel, CONAN THE CONQUEROR! "Corsairs of Stygia" is written by **Roy Thomas** and drawn by **Gil Kane**. Plus: from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #8, a suspense-filled tale that sheds light on an aspect of Hyborean life forbidden to god-fearing men. "Sorcerer's Summit" is written and drawn by **Bruce Jones**. A Marvel black and white magazine. For Mature Readers. $2.00.

☐ **AKIRA** #8—Within the secret government base, **Kaneda** and **Kay** discover a weapon powerful enough to challenge **Tetsuo's** psychokinetic might. . .if they can use it before he has the chance to mentally blow them apart. *And* if the using of it doesn't inadvertantly cause the most feared event of all. . .the awakening of **Akira**. An Epic comics Graphic Album. Direct sales only. For Mature Readers. 64 pages. $3.50.

☐ **THE PUNISHER: RETURN TO BIG NOTHING** Hardcover Graphic Novel—The **Punisher** takes on a band of Cambodian weapons smugglers operating within the United States. But when he makes his move, he finds himself confronting a deadly nemesis from his past! Written by **Steven Grant**, penciled by **Mike Zeck**, and inked by **John Beatty**. . 64 pages. $16.95.

Titles Shipping January 31 On Sale February 21

☐ **IRON MAN** #242—See the new improved **Iron Man** armor against the new powers of the **Mandarin's** rings! Don't put any quick bets on **Iron Man** winning! Co-plotted and scripted by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Alan Kupperburg**, and co-plotted and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐ **COUNT DUCKULA** #4—When **Count Duckula**, the vegetarian vampire from Transylvania, and **Danger Mouse**, the world's foremost rodent spy, team up the result is absolute mayhem! Written by **Michael Gallagher**, and drawn by **Warren Kremer**. $1.00.

☐ **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #150—The shocking verdict of **Joe Robertson's** trial is in—**Robbie's** *guilty*! Meanwhile **Spidey** has to deal with a simmering gang war between the **Lobo Brothers** and the **Kingpin**; plus a werewolf is prowling the streets! Written by **Gerry Conway** and drawn by **Sal Buscema**. $1.00.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #33—Re-presenting from THE UNCANNY X-MEN #127, the X-MEN's astonishing battle against the mutant **Proteus**! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. Plus: an all-new back-up tale that reveals more about the special relationship between **Havok** and **Polaris**. Written by **Ann Nocenti** and drawn by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE** #4—You knew them as the **New Defenders**. Now they're the **Dragon Circle**! Together they team up with **Doctor Strange** to stop a menace against humanity greater than **Shuma Gorath**—the **Dark Dragon**! "Dragon's Dream" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Rich Case**, and inked by **Al Gordon**. Mando Offset paper. Direct sales only. $1.50.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #30—The tension on the front line can cause anything to happen, and in "Bunker" it does! Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Wayne Vansant**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct sales only. $1.50.

☐ **POWER PACK** #46—**Jack** and **Katie** take off on a rescue mission. And in the process pick up two unusual allies—**Dakota North** and the **Punisher**! "The Great Googam Ripoff" is written by **Terry Austin** and penciled by **Whilce Portacio**. Mando Offset paper. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.50.

MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ

There's something about Christmas that makes people want to throw parties, remember their fellow men, or most especially, build a new hypno-ray to enslave the world! Though it's supposedly a time of peace on Earth, somehow in Marvel Comics the Christmas holiday sees more than its fair share of mayhem. Can you recall all the holiday havoc detailed below, stretching from recent Xmases to ones of auld acquaintance that may be forgot? If not, the answers are unwrapped on page 32!

—Brian Nelson

1. The **X-Men** spent last Christmas returning the booty stolen by:
   A) the **Marauders**
   B) the **Reavers**
   C) the **Slayers**
   D) the **Cimmerians**

2. Which New Universe character used his astral body to convince his little brother not to run away from home on Christmas Eve?
   A) **Tyrone** of **PSI-FORCE**
   B) **Scuzz** of **D.P. 7**
   C) **Dasher** of **KICKERS, INC.**
   D) **George Bailey** of IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

3. And speaking of the New Universe, the devastation chronicled in THE PITT transpired:
   A) three days before Christmas
   B) three days before New Year's Day
   C) three days before Hanukkah
   D) three days before the new civic evacuation procedures drill

4. Who visited Bethlehem on Christmas Eve in search of drug smugglers?
   A) the **Punisher**
   B) **Cloak** and **Dagger**
   C) **Spider-Man**
   D) the **Arabian Knight**

5. Who did **Daredevil** defeat on Christmas Eve, thereby winning presents from grateful merchants to give to his friends in Hell's Kitchen?
   A) the **Wildboys**
   B) the **Trixter**
   C) the **Kingpin**
   D) **Tagak, the Leopard Lord**

6. And the previous Christmas, who did Daredevil duel in a highly-reported media sideshow?
   A) the Wildboys
   B) the Trixter
   C) the Kingpin
   D) Tagak, the Leopard Lord

7. And the still previous Christmas, who used the knowledge of Daredevil's secret identity to destroy **Matt Murdock's** life?
   A) the Wildboys
   B) the Trixter
   C) the Kingpin
   D) Tagak, the Leopard Lord

8. **Crystal** employed a Christmas-time visit to the home of **Vision** and the **Scarlet Witch** as an opportunity to:
   A) hide from the Royal Family of **Inhumans**
   B) train and sharpen her elemental powers
   C) enjoy an extramarital affair
   D) finally finish reading *The Name of the Rose*

9. Which magazine cover-featured a skeletal **Santa** as part of its "Hate-the-Holidays" issue?
   A) MONSTER MADNESS
   B) BIZARRE ADVENTURES
   C) VAULT OF EVIL
   D) PIZZAZZ

10. And speaking of covers, who (besides **Forbush-Man**, of course) starred on the Christmas covers of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE in both 1986 and 1987?
    A) **Wolverine**
    B) the **Silver Surfer**
    C) **Groo the Wanderer**
    D) **Brother Voodoo**

11. Who attacked the X-Men in front of Rockefeller Plaza during the height of the pre-Christmas shopping rush?
    A) the **Brood**
    B) the **Sentinels**
    C) the **N'Garai**
    D) **Paul Shaffer** and the World's Most Dangerous Band

12. And the same Christmas night, as recently revealed in CLASSIC X-MEN, who committed murder to seize the potential for world-governing power?
    A) **Sebastian Shaw**
    B) **Cameron Hodge**
    C) **Steven Lang**
    D) the **Impossible Man** from Planet Poppup

13. The **Hulk** exchanged Christmas presents with what super-group?
    A) the **Avengers**
    B) the **Rangers**
    C) the **Defenders**
    D) the **X-Babies**

14. Which TOMB OF DRACULA character was born on Christmas Eve?
    A) **Frank Drake**
    B) **Lilith**
    C) **Janus**
    D) **Quincy's** dog **Saint**

15. Which villain risked capture by **Spider-Man** and the **Human Torch** in order to visit his mother on Christmas Eve?
    A) **Sandman**
    B) **Dr. Octopus**
    C) **Dr. Faustus**
    D) **the In-Betweener**

16. What hero stopped a mad bomber on Christmas Eve so that he could spend the evening with **Claire Temple**?
    A) **Banshee**
    B) **Black Goliath**
    C) **Luke Cage**
    D) **Kamuu** of Atlantis

17. Who has nightmares every Christmas Eve, as depicted in the final issue of SON OF SATAN?
    A) **Satan**
    B) **Daimon Hellstrom**, the Son of Satan
    C) **Satana Hellstrom**, the daughter of Satan
    D) **Murray Frobisher**, the accountant of Satan

18. Spider-Man and the **Lizard** found themselves unlikely allies in a Christmas battle against which nemesis?
    A) **Vincent Stegron**
    B) **Bart Hamilton**
    C) **Jonas Harrow**
    D) **Jay Leno**

19. What villain did **Nick Fury** once battle on the night before Christmas?
    A) **Baron Strucker**
    B) **Scorpio**
    C) the **Hate-Monger**
    D) the **Grinch**

20. And just to move this quiz from Christmas into the next holiday—New Year's Eve once brought **Dr. Strange** and **Clea** to Times Square, just in time to witness:
    A) **Dormammu's** destruction of a star
    B) **Nightmare's** capture of **Eternity**
    C) the **Ancient One's** mystic warnings
    D) **Umar's** guest song with **Guy** Lombardo

ITEM: It's time to bid a tearful farewell to managing editor **Pat Redding**. Pat's leaving us to join United Features Syndicate. Good luck, Pat, we'll miss you. Coming in to help editor **Don Daley** on THE 'NAM, SEMPER FI', CONAN THE BARBARIAN, THE 'NAM MAGAZINE, DINO-RIDERS, and THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL is new assistant **Kelly Corvese**. In case Kelly's name sounds familiar, he's been editor in chief **Tom DeFalco's** administrative assistant and the friendly guide for all our bullpen tours. Congratulations, Kelly!

ITEM: Last issue we announced that **Maurice L. Fontenot** of Altadena, California won our name everyone on the MARVEL UNIVERSE poster-contest. And, as promised, this issue we're listing all the names. Here they are:

ABOMINATION
ABSORBING MAN
AQUILA
A.I.M.
AJAK

TOP TEN

Here's our Top Ten for the month of August. As you may have guessed, the mutant books again dominated the ranking of the ten best-selling titles in the direct sales market as compiled by our Vice-President/Direct Sales **Carol Kalish**. But what about MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, you ask? Where did it come in? Well, wonder no more, it came in at #32 with a bullet! So tell your friends, tell your enemies, tell your teachers—buy MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE and make us #1!

1—WOLVERINE #2
2—X-MEN #239
3—EXCALIBUR #3
4—X-FACTOR #35
5—X-TERMINATORS #3
6—SILVER SURFER-Limited Series #1
7—PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #2
8—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #9
9—MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #10
10—THE NEW MUTANTS #70

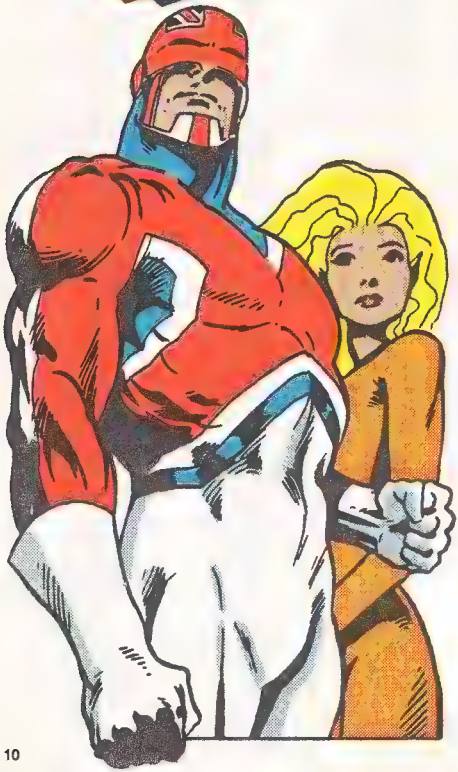
ALPHA PRIMITIVES
AMERICAN EAGLE
ANACONDA
ANGAR THE SCREAMER
ANGEL
ANNIHILUS
ANT-MAN
AQUARIAN
ARABIAN KNIGHT
ARCADE
ARES
ARKON
ARMADILLO
ARNIM ZOLA
ASP
ATTUMA
AURORA
AVALANCHE
BALDER
BARON MORDO
BARON ZEMO
BASSILISK
BATROC
BEAST
BEETLE
BELASCO
BETA RAY BILL
BINARY
BLACK BOLT
BLACK CAT
BLACK CROW
BLACK KING
BLACK KNIGHT
BLACKLASH
BLACK MAMBA
BLACK PANTHER
BLACK QUEEN
BLACK TALON
BLACK WIDOW
BLASTAAR
BLITZKRIEG
BLIZZARD
BLOB
BLUE SHIELD
BOOMERANG
BOX
BROTHERS GRIMM
BROTHER VOODOO
BULLSEYE
BUSHMASTER
CALLISTO
CANNONBALL
CAPTAIN AMERICA
CAPTAIN BRITAIN
CAPTAIN MARVEL
CAPTAIN UNIVERSE
CASSIDY, BLACK TOM
CATSEYE
CHIEF EXAMINER
CHARLIE-27
CLEA
CLOAK
COBRA
COLLECTIVE MAN
COLLECTOR
COLOSSUS
CONSTRICTOR
CONTEMPLATOR
CONTROLLER
CORRUPTOR
CORSAIR
COTTONMOUTH
CRIMSON DYNAMO
CROSSFIRE
CRUSADER
CRYSTAL
CYCLOPS
DAGGER
DAREDEVIL
DARKSTAR
DAZZLER
DEATH
DEATHBIRD
DEATHLOK
DEATHURGE
DEFENSOR
DESTINY
DEVIL-SLAYER
DIABLO
DIAMONDBACK
DOC SAMSON
DOCTOR DOOM
DOCTOR DRUID
DOCTOR OCTOPUS
DOCTOR PYM
DOCTOR STRANGE
DRAGON MAN
DREADKNIGHT
DREADNOUGHT
D'SPAYRE
EEL
EGO
ELECTRO
ELEKTRA
EMPATH
ENCHANTRESS
ENERGIZER
ETERNITY
FALCON
FENRIS
FIREBIRD
FIRELORD
FIRESTAR
FIXER
FLAG-SMASHER
FOOLKILLER
FORTUNE, DOMINIC
FURY, NICK
GAEA
GALACTUS
GARGOYLE
GEE
GHOST RIDER
(NIGHT RIDER)
GLADIATOR
GLORIAN
GOLIATH
GORGON
GRANDMASTER
GREY GARGOYLE
GUARDSMAN
GYPSY MOTH
HATE-MONGER
HAVOK
HAWKEYE
HELA
HELLCAT
HER
HERCULES
HOBGOBLIN
HULK
HUMAN TORCH
HYDRA
HYDRO-MAN
HYPERION
ICEMAN
IKARIS
ILLUSION
IMMORTUS
IMPOSSIBLE MAN
IMPOSSIBLE WOMAN
IN-BETWEENER
INVISIBLE WOMAN
IRON MAN
JACK OF HEARTS
JACK O'LANTERN
JAMESON, JOHN
JESTER
JETSTREAM
JUGGERNAUT
KALE, JENNIFER
KANG
KARKAS
KARMA
KARNAK
KARNILLA
KA-ZAR
KILLER SHRIKE
KINGPIN
KLAW
KNIGHT, MISTY
KOFI
KRANG
KRO
KURSE
LAVA MEN
LEADER
LIGHTMASTER
LIGHTSPEED
LILANDRA
LIVING LASER
LIVING MONOLITH
LIVING MUMMY
LIZARD
LOCKJAW
LOKI
LONGSHOT
LORELEI
MACHINE MAN
MADAME MASQUE
MADROX
MAD THINKER
MAELSTROM
MAGNETO
MAKKARI
MAN-APE
MAN-BULL
MANDARIN
MANDRILL
MANDROIDS
MANSLAUGHTER
MAN-THING
MANTIS
MARRINA
MARTINEX
MARVEL GIRL
MASS MASTER
MASTER
MASTER PANDEMONIUM
MAXIMUS
MEDUSA
MELTER
MENTALLO
MENTOR
MEPHISTO
MERCURIO
MESMERO
MIRAGE
MISTER FANTASTIC
MISTER HYDE
MOCKINGBIRD
MODOK
MODRED THE MYSTIC
MOLE MAN
MOLECULE MAN
MONTANA
MOONDRAGON
MOON KNIGHT
MOONSTONE
MORPHEUS
MYSTERIO
MYSTIQUE
NAMORITA
NEBULA
NEKRA
NIGHTCRAWLER
NIGHTMARE
NIGHTSHADE
NIKKI
NITRO
NOMAD
NORTHSTAR
NOVA
ODIN
ORKA
OWL
OX
PALADIN
PEREGRINE
PHOENIX
PLANTMAN
PLUTO
POLARIS
POWER MAN
PRINCESS PYTHON
PROFESSOR X
PSYCHO-MAN
PUCK
PUMA
PUNISHER
PUPPET MASTER
PURPLE MAN
PYRO
QUASAR
QUASIMODO
QUICKSILVER
RAMA-TUT
RATTLER
RED GHOST
RED WOLF
REJECT
RHINO
RINGMASTER
ROCKET RACCOON
ROGUE
ROM
RONAN THE ACCUSER
ROSE
ROULETTE
SABRA
SABRETOOTH
SANDMAN
SASQUATCH
SCARLET SCARAB
SCARLET WITCH
SCORPION
SENTINELS
SERSI
SHADOWCAT
SHAMAN (TALISMAN)
SHAMROCK
SHANG-CHI
SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL
SHAPER OF WORLDS
SHE-HULK
SHOOTING STAR
SHROUD
SIDEWINDER
SIF
SILVERMANE
SILVER SABLE
SILVER SAMURAI
SILVER SURFER
SIRYN
SNOWBIRD
SOLARR
SON OF SATAN
SPACE PHANTOM
SPEED DEMON
SPIDER-MAN
SPIDER-WOMAN
STAR-DANCER
STARFOX
STARHAWK
STILT-MAN
STINGRAY
STORM
STRANGER
SUB-MARINER
SUNFIRE
SUNSPOT
SUPER-SKRULL
SUPREME INTELLIGENCE
SURTUR
TALISMAN
TAROT
TASKMASTER
TATTERDEMALION
TATTLETALE
TERMINUS
THENA
THING
THOR
THUNDERBIRD
THUNDRA
TIGER SHARK
TIGRA
TITANIA
TITANIUM MAN
TOAD
TOMORROW MAN
TRAPSTER
TRITON
TYRANNUS
ULIK
ULTRON
UMAR
UNICORN
UNION JACK
UNUS
VALKYRIE
VANCE ASTRO
VANGUARD
VANISHER
VERMIN
VINDICATOR
VIPER
VISION
VOLCANA
VULTURE
WASP
WATCHER
WATER WIZARD
WENDIGO
WEREWOLF
WHIRLWIND
WHITE QUEEN
WILL O' THE WISP
WING, COLLEEN
WIZARD
WOLFSBANE
WOLVERINE
WONDER MAN
WOODGOD
WRECKER
YELLOW JACKET
YMIR
YONDU
ZEUS
ZZZAX

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 4 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 1

Captain BRITAIN™

TRADE PAPER-BACK



Did you know that Captain Britain, leader of the England-based team of mutants known as Excalibur, is actually Brian Braddock?

You did? Oh.

I bet you didn't know that he's the twin brother of Betsy Braddock, the incredibly powerful Psylocke of the X-Men!

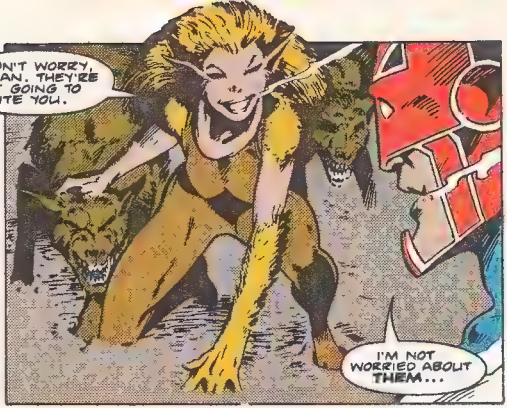
You knew that too? Really?

Then I suppose you already knew that his girlfriend, the metamorphic Meggan, was originally portrayed as a horrifying "were-creature" prone to pain-wracked rampages during the nights when the moon was full. It's probably common knowledge that the reason they currently live in their lighthouse in the first place is because Brian was forced out of his centuries-old family mansion when the corrupt RCX convinced Captain UK to reveal Braddock's secret identity so that they could eventually manipulate Betsy into temporarily becoming Captain Britain while she used the estate to house dozens of mutated children known as "Warpies" who were originally created when—

What's that? You didn't know that Meggan wasn't always the radiant young beauty that she is today? You had no idea that the multiverse is full of countless versions of Captain Britain and that one such manifestation was the female Captain UK of an alternate Earth? You weren't even aware that the RCX is the Resource Control Executive, a clandestine agency within the British government created to maintain peaceful

coexistence between mutants and humans? Well then, it would probably be a good idea for you to pick up a copy of the CAPTAIN BRITAIN Trade Paperback!

Weighing in at 196 pages, this trade paperback is the collected work of all 14 issues of the monthly CAPTAIN BRITAIN Magazine. Also featured are the Captain's last two adventures in THE MIGHTY WORLD OF MARVEL, an anthology title originally printed, and heretofore only available in England. As a special treat, the editors at Marvel UK are not only shipping us these hard to find Alan Davis/Jamie Delano stories, but each page is rendered, for the first time on both sides of the Atlantic—in color! That's right, the pre-Excalibur adventures of Captain Britain will be



SLAYMASTER

available in full color! Combine all these fringe benefits with an introduction by a guy named Chris Claremont, and it's a safe bet that by the time you're done reading this massive tome, you'll know everything you didn't realize you didn't know about Captain Britain.

Without giving anything away, (because I hate that! It's like telling someone you're going to see a movie, and he says "You'll be shocked when he dies in the end.") some of the highlights of the trade paperback include appearences by Vixen, Slaymaster, Saturnyne, The Special Executive, The Fury, Lady Roma, S.T.R.I.K.E., as well as a distinctively British villain known as "Shoulders" McGill.

If all this isn't enough to whet your appetite, (and if it isn't, check for a pulse,) you'll be excited to learn you'll be privy to the first appearance of Gatecrasher and the Techno-net! Excalibur-compadres won't be the only ones surprised to learn that the hermaphroditic hippopotamus's hired hands weren't always the harmonious henchmen they are today. In fact, there was this one time they actually stranded Gatecrasher in the past where she was forced to live under a waterfall so that she didn't hatch ten thousand parasite eggs. Humbled and humiliated, she was forced to kidnap Captain Britain and Meggan to rescue her.

Also introduced in this saga of Captain Britain's earlier adventures is a super team of adolescent and pre-adolescent mutants known as the Cherubim! If you're expecting an English version of the New Mutants, however, forget it. These eleven young "Warpies" are as angry as they are powerful, determined not to be pushed around by "a world that fears and hates them."

You'll learn that Brian Braddock wasn't always the huge and muscular version of Captain Britain that he is today. He originally believed his powers came from Merlin and a magic scepter that was given him by the ancient mage. Later, Brian was convinced that his powers were actually a result of his new uniform that he received while battling malevolent forces in an alternate reality. Only recently did he discover that he and Betsy are mutants whose father was a pandimensional vanguard of the mysterious Otherworld!

The Captain's supporting cast also gets its time in the spotlight. You'll be touched by the transformation of Meggan from a frightened and lonely mutant to the perpetually powerful partner and girlfriend of the super hero she'd spent her life admiring from afar. (Admit it. Haven't you always wondered why Meggan suffers from self-esteem so low that her mood can directly affect her physical appearance?) X-heads will also want to see the horrific battle between Slaymaster and Betsy Braddock, who was posing as Captain Britain at the time. It was this battle that led to the blinding of Psylocke, which as everyone really does know, led to the cybernetic implants in her eyes that transmit direc ly to the homeworld of the nefarious Mojo...but that's a story for another time.

The Captain Britain Trade Paperback, coming soon. You'll be shocked when he dies in the end! (I'm just kidding.)

—Scott Lobdell

THE RETURN OF THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK™

This issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE previews the first issue of a new series starring **Jennifer Walters**, better known to AVENGERS and FANTASTIC FOUR followers as **the She-Hulk**. Along with his debut on WEST COAST AVENGERS, the new SHE-HULK series marks the return of **John Byrne** as a writer and penciler on stories set in the Marvel Universe. **Bob Wiacek** will ink the stories and **Bobbie Chase** is their editor. The new SHE-HULK series marks something else as well; it is an attempt to combine Marvel-style high super hero adventure with an irreverent, wacky kind of humor unseen in Marvel stories before.

The She-Hulk was the brainchild of **Stan Lee**, but her first series did not last too long, nor did the character have the best reputation in the Marvel Universe. But **Roger Stern** took the character and gave her a winning personality that John Byrne further developed when he made her a member of **the Fantastic Four**. John recalls, "Well, it was Roger Stern who demonstrated to me that she was a viable character. He put her in THE AVENGERS, he made her interesting, and I immediately stole her for THE FANTASTIC FOUR. Whenever people say to me, "Boy, you made the She-Hulk real neat!", I always say, "No, Roger made the She-Hulk real neat, and I just stole her."

John believes Roger was able to make the She-Hulk interesting because he was "taking the character seriously. I think there was a reflexive reaction to She-Hulk when she first appeared, which was (A) that everyone hated the name, and (B) because she was from California, everybody said, 'Oh, she must be a ditz.' And she tended to be played that way, so she got rather off-hand treatment. Plus the stories tended to be lower key stories. One could not imagine 'the savage She-Hulk' ever going up against Galactus."

Also, the She-Hulk tended to be played too much like simply a female version of **the Hulk**: a somewhat colorless normal person who transformed into a hot-tempered super-strong being. That's the trouble with many female super hero characters, they are just watered-down versions of the male characters. It's a challenge to any writer to find whatever it is about the character that is unique.

"Roger got hold of her and took her seriously. That was all it really took, for somebody to sit down and say, 'This is a character who was created by **Stan Lee**; therefore, she is 'real.' And then just to say, 'Who would this character be if we treated her with the same respect that we treat other Stan Lee creations?', and I think he turned her into a neat character and that's why I stole her!

"Having had her in the FF for a while, I found her fun to work with. I did the SHE-HULK Graphic Novel. Then, when I came back to Marvel, and people were saying, 'John, what do you want to do?', it was **Mark Gruenwald** who said, 'How about a new SHE-HULK series?'"

John realizes that past adventure comic books featuring heroines have proven to be short-lived, but he hopes

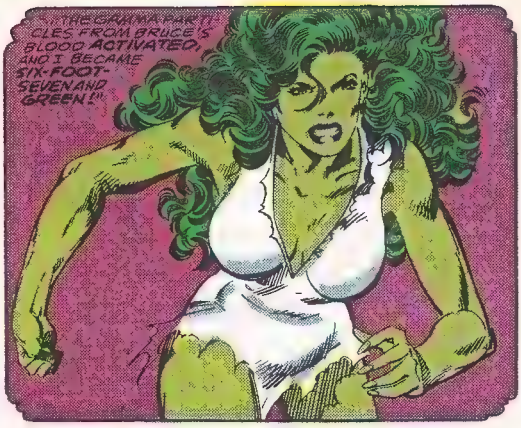
this will not be the case with SHE-HULK. "There's been a tendency to think of books with female leads as being 'girls books'. But one hopes that the fans will recognize that SHE-HULK is not intended as a girl's book. It's intended as a book for everybody to have fun with. I'm not doing stories for a girl, as it were. I'm doing the same kind of stories I would do for anybody; it just happens to have a female lead. So the stories will be big, exciting, and thrilling, one hopes."

Certainly the character can no longer be described merely as a female version of the Hulk. "She's miles away from the Hulk now. In fact, she is neither a Jekyll-Hyde monster like the Hulk nor even a new version of the typical contemporary angst-ridden super hero. "She is rare in the Marvel Universe in that she is happier being She-Hulk than she was being her regular self," John points out. "Other heroes who have been transformed so that they no longer look like normal people feel alienated from the rest of humanity, but Jennifer glories in being the tall, green-skinned She-Hulk."

Reminded of the scene in his SHE-HULK Graphic Novel in which the She-Hulk happily dresses up in a sexy costume for a night on the town, John says, "That was inspired by an interview I had read somewhere, I think in PEOPLE, with **Raquel Welch**, who talked about an instance when she was doing her show in Vegas and the power failed, so she didn't have a live mike, so nobody could hear her. She just stood there, and her attitude was to say, 'What the heck, let 'em look.' And people did. And that was where I came up with She-Hulk; it was to say, 'Yeah, if you're six foot seven and green, people are going to look.' And since she happens to be six foot seven and green and incredibly good-looking, she's inclined to let them look, to welcome their looks rather than try to hide from them.

"She's probably pretty well a representative of what we perceive as today's modern, liberated woman. The major difference between She-Hulk and most portrayals of such characters is that she's not strident about it. She makes her statement by her life, by the fact that she's got this great job and as a super hero on the side, things like that. She's a very modern woman but she's liberated enough that she doesn't have to keep hitting people over the head with it. It's not an issue. It's like, 'I'm liberated; you're liberated; nothing more needs to be said."

Jennifer will not be wearing a specific super hero uniform in the series. "She's going to wear civvies pretty much because she doesn't really need a costume, being quite recognizable without one. Nor will she just turn up in



the torn nightgowns and old gym suits of her past appearances. She's going to dress out of VOGUE," John says. "VOGUE is my reference."

Not only is Jennifer having fun being the She-Hulk, but her adventures are going to have a lighter tone than most super hero stories. In fact, there will be a good deal of outright comedy. In this respect, SHE-HULK seems to be part of a new trend in super hero comics. There is a growing number of books that mix adventure with wacky attempts at humor. It is as if the recent so-called Grim and Gritty trend is being followed by Funny and Funky. "Yes, we're doing funny stuff," John says. "I thought I was being brilliantly original when I first suggested this, and suddenly everybody's doing it.

"Well, I think the trend has come about for the reason I think all trends come about, which is the pendulum effect. We go from one extreme to another, and we very rarely settle anywhere near the middle."

But SHE-HULK will handle its humor differently than some of the other comedy-adventure super hero comics now being turned out. "My feeling is that a lot of them tend to ridicule the characters, which SHE-HULK will never do. Such humor as there is in SHE-HULK comes from situation and her reaction to the situation, but it never comes from saying, 'Boy, isn't a big green woman funny in and of itself?', or, 'Aren't the Headmen funny in and of themselves?'" John compares the set-up of SHE-HULK to one of his favorite television comedy series, in which **Bob Newhart's** character is a normal man "surrounded by outlandish characters, because Bob Newhart's greatest talent is how he reacts" to such characters.

"So part of it is all in the wrist, all in how you aproach it. But yes, certainly there's a great trick to preventing stuff from degenerating into silliness. I suspect that if I sense that SHE-HULK is degenerating, I'll take it in another direction entirely."

In choosing villains for the series, John is picking ones who, to put it kindly, are not the most awe-inspiring and terrifying opponents one could imagine. "Just flip through MARVEL UNIVERSE and check out all the lame-os," John says. "Most of them are going to turn up in SHE-HULK eventually." John adds, in an amused tone, that "Mark Gruenwald said that his only problem with my doing all these lame characters is that after I do them they don't seem so lame anymore."

What makes SHE-HULK different in its humor from any past Marvel comic is that, as John explains, "A lot of the stuff that's in the book comes from the fact she knows she's in a comic book. So her reactions are based on that knowledge.

"I've always been a big fan of movies and plays and whatnot, going all the way back to **Shakespeare** and the ancient Greeks in which people react to the audience. It's one of my favorite bits in movies when somebody turns to the camera and raises an eyebrow. One of my favorite TV shows used to the *He and She* with **Dick Benjamin** and **Paula Prentiss**, because he knew he was in a TV show—he was constantly turning to the camera. Then, of course, you have *Burns and Allen*, *It's Garry Shandling's Show*, all these people; certainly *Monty Python*, and before that, on

radio there were *The Goons* (on the BBC in Britain), who used to break the fourth wall, or break the prescenium, to use the old expression. It's a great tradition.

"It's relatively new in comics, although **the Blonde Phantom**, a character I'm bringing back in SHE-HULK, used to talk to the camera." But now we're getting ahead of ourselves! Let's go through the upcoming issues of SHE-HULK in order, one by one.

The first issue, as you see from the excerpt previewed in this issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE features as its villains **the Ringmaster and the Circus of Crime**, who, appropriately enough, first appeared during the Hulk's first series, which lasted only six issues.

John Byrne is using the early issues of some of the major Marvel series, especially THE FANTASTIC FOUR, THE AVENGERS, and THE HULK, as a model for deciding what will go into the initial issues of SHE-HULK. The first issue of SHE-HULK is not an exact counterpart of the first issue of any other Marvel series, although, come to think of it, the Hulk appeared briefly as a circus performer in the first issue of THE AVENGERS. "And, in fact," John says, "She-Hulk makes a reference to the Hulk in the circus in AVENGERS #1." The Ringmaster is operating on behalf of yet another threat, however, which will continue into the next issue.

Issue two of the She-Hulk's new series shows her battling **the Toad Men**, who first appeared in the second issue of the Hulk's original series. For that matter, aliens--**the Skrulls** and the **Space Phantom**--turned up in FANTASTIC FOUR #2 and AVENGERS #2, respectively. There is another similarity, as well; the Skrulls and the Space Phantom took on the appearances of being different from themselves, and the Toad Men in SHE-HULK #2 are also not what they seem. When this similarity was pointed out to him, John Byrne laughed, "I hadn't even thought of that!" (Well, readers trying to figure out this mystery should probably keep SPIDER-MAN #2 in mind as well!) Oh, yes, and there is another villain behind the Toad Men, and yet another menace behind him as well! And **the Wasp** shows up briefly to show Jennifer around the latter's new apartment.

Issue three does not have an exact parallel in the third issues of AVENGERS or FANTASTIC FOUR. "It's an arbitrary guest appearance," John explains, "which usually happens around the third issue of a new series." The guest star in this instance is **Spider-Man**, the villains are the weirdly grotesque **Headmen** from long-ago issues of THE DEFENDERS, and all John will say for print about what happens to She-Hulk this issue is to state enigmatically, "Just say She-Hulk loses her head when Spider-Man shows up."

Issue four of THE FANTASTIC FOUR brought back **the Sub-Mariner** and the fourth issue of THE AVENGERS brought back **Captain America**, two of the greatest characters whose adventures Marvel published, in its earlier incarnation as Timely Comics, back in the 1940s. "It happened that I mentioned to **Jim Salicrup** that I was doing all these arbitrary old Marvel things, like a villainous doctor in the fifth issue, and he said, "Who's your returning Golden Age character?" And I said, "I don't have one." Roger Stern went through his vast encyclopedic knowledge and came up with the Blonde Phantom for me. She fits in SHE-HULK since she too used to address the readers in her stories. When not fighting crime in her secret costumed identity," John explains, "the Blonde Phantom worked as a secretary in a private detective's office. She was secretly in love with the detective, who thought her plain and uninteresting, but thought the Blonde Phantom was a babe."

The Blonde Phantom actually first appears in SHE-HULK #2 in her normal identity of **Louise "Weezie" Grant** (no connection to Marvel's other "Weezie," if that's what you're thinking), who now works in the office of Manhattan District Attorney **Blake Tower**, a longtime character from DAREDEVIL. It is Louise who recommends that Tower give Jennifer her new job working as a prosecuting attorney in his office. "In issue four," John says, "Louise sort of, well, kind of comes out of retirement as the Blonde Phantom. However, don't expect her to look just like the sultry super heroine of the 1940s. "It's forty years later," John points out. "She wasn't on ice. She's taken care of herself, but she still looks like she's sixty-five years old." But Weezie is going to stick around. "She's going to become a member of the supporting cast. To push a point, she'll be more like **Viv** to She-Hulk's **Lucy**."

In issue four **"Stilt-Man** is the main villain. He's riding the vengeance trail. He's out to get District Attorney Blake Tower."

And then who is the "villainous doctor" who appears in issue five? In FANTASTIC FOUR #5 it was **Doctor Doom**, making his debut appearance. In SHE-HULK #5 it will be none other than the nefarious **Doctor Bong**, the greatest enemy of **Howard the Duck** in years gone by. Do you remember Doctor Bong? The guy who wore a bell over his head? But you don't think this series can get any crazier than this, eh? Well, keep reading.

Then in issue 6, John says, "I'm bringing a semi-familiar character into the mix, a mechanical man named **Roger Robot**." So yes, this story will indeed be titled, "Who Framed Roger Robot" and Roger should indeed look *semi-familiar* to those of you who have followed John Byrne's career in comics from its beginning. I can say no more.

Things get even crazier than that with the story tentatively scheduled for issue seven featuring the voodoo master known as **the Black Talon**, "who's going to resurrect a team of dead mutants and call them **the X-Humed**."

Beyond that, there are no definite plans. Sometime after the seventh issue Jennifer will visit England, where John and his wife, **Andrea,** recently went on a vacation. So John says he will send Jennifer "overseas for a bit so that she can make rude comments about how she has to go to England so I can write it off on my taxes."

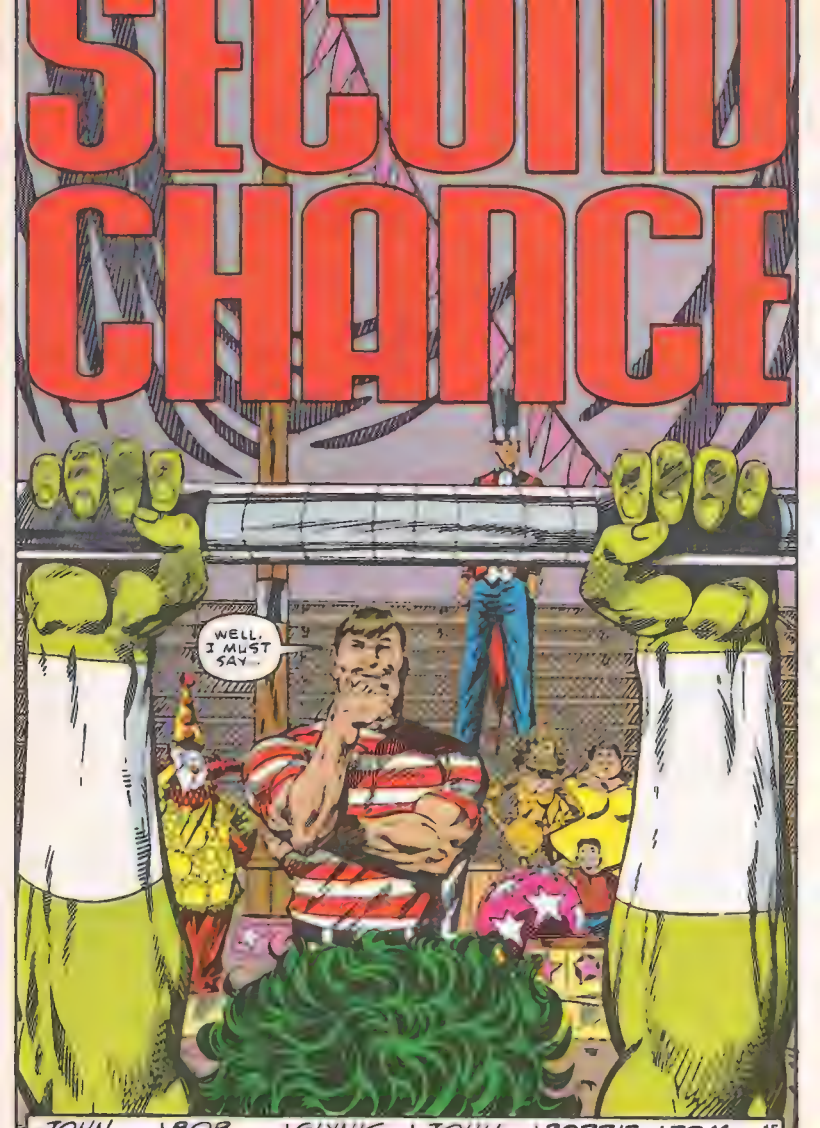
Jen will also have various romantic interests until she finally settles into a relationship with **Hercules**, who will be returning to Earth. As yet John has not planned any supporting characters beyond Hercules, Tower, and Weezie, although he expects to create some more. "Those are the kind of characters who happen when they first appear for me. The subplot stuff happens as it happens. I've found over the years that gives it a more spontaneous kind of feel. Because generally even if I don't know what's going to happen, how can anyone else?"

John will go at a gradual pace in "breaking the fourth wall" in SHE-HULK, starting out subtly and letting things get steadily weirder as he progresses from issue to issue. "There's only one clear instance of her breaking the fourth wall in the first issue, although there's another instance that suggests she knows she's in a comic book. It gets crazier." In issue two, for example, she actually yells at John for giving her adversaries as ludicrous as the Toad Men to fight. Jen and Weezie will be the only characters who talk to John or to the audience or who realize they are in a comic book. "Everybody else is puzzled when She-Hulk talks to the audience. That's an ongoing gag."

SHE-HULK promises to bring the proverbial breath of fresh air back into an almost uniformly dark super hero universe, reminding us that a sense of fun has always been part of the main appeal of the super hero genre. On the following pages you will see an excerpt from the very first issue of the new SHE-HULK series. Appropriately enough, it is set at a circus, so break out your cotton candy, sit back, and have a good time.

--Peter Sanderson

SECOND CHANCE



JOHN BYRNE
WRITER/ PENCILLER

BOB WIACEK
INKER

GLYNIS OLIVER
COLORIST

JOHN WORKMAN
LETTERER

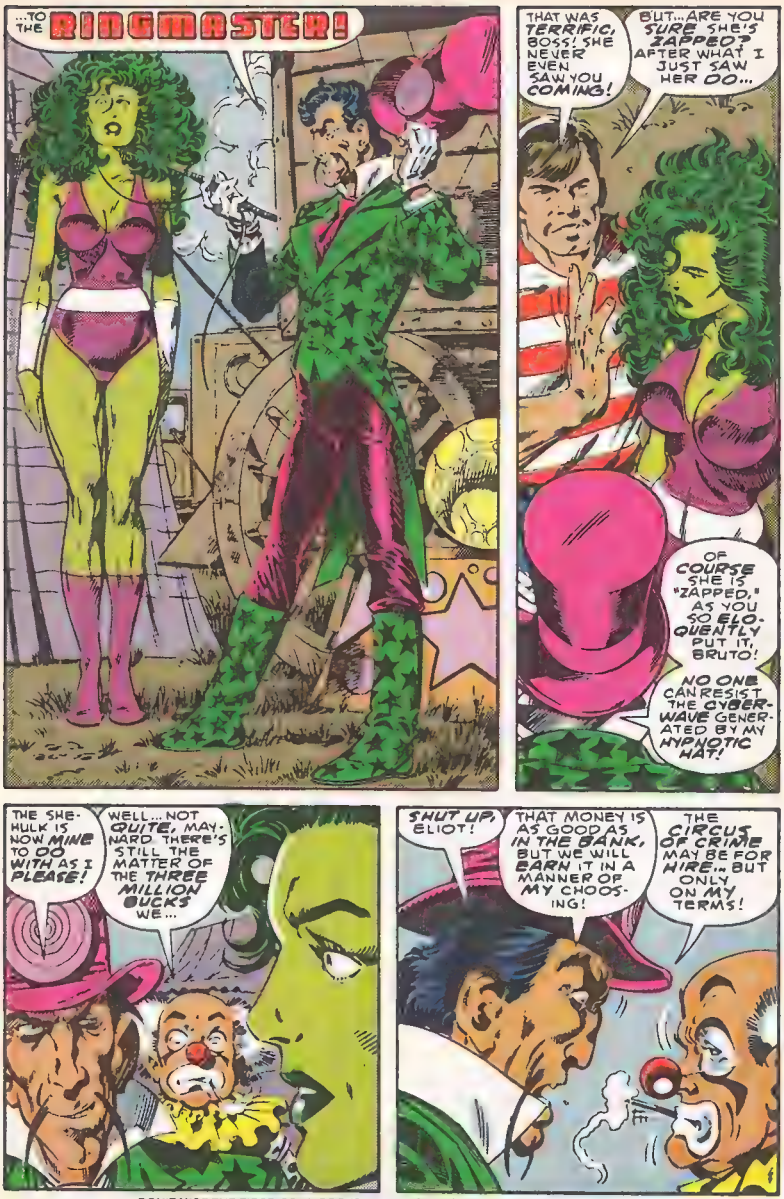
BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR

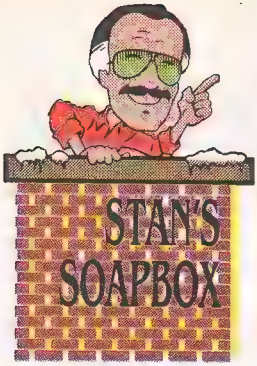
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

McFADDEN BROTHERS CIRCUS, SOMEWHERE NEAR CRESSKILL, NEW JERSEY...
I'M IMPRESSED!

BUT THIS IS HARDLY EVEN A FAIR FIGHT-
IT'S KEEPING THE ROD FROM

STILL...AS IMPRESSIVE AS THIS MIGHT BE, IT DOESN'T EVEN COME CLOSE TO SOME OF THE THINGS MY COUSIN HAS DONE IN HIS DAY.
LET ME JUST PUT DOWN THE PACHYDERMS...
"BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS OF HIS TRANSFORMATION INTO THE HULK, BRUCE HID OUT WITH A CIRCUS VERY MUCH LIKE THIS ONE--ALTHOUGH HIS ACT WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE... IMAGINATIVE..."
THERE HE IS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! MECHANO, THE MOST POWERFUL, LIFE-LIKE ROBOT ON EARTH!
"MAYBE YOU READ ABOUT IT IN THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE AVENGERS...?"
UH, NO... I DON'T READ MUCH...ESPECIALLY NOT THEM SUPER-HERO MAGS.
BUT...IT'S TRUE, THEN, THAT YOU AND BRUCE BANNER ARE COUSINS? I'D HEARD RUMORS...
NOTHING "RUMOR" ABOUT IT. I JUST HAVEN'T MADE MUCH OF A POINT OF BROADCASTING MY LIFE STORY TO THE WORLD.
...EVEN THOUGH I DON'T HAVE A "SECRET IDENTITY."
TOO BAD. SOUNDS LIKE IT WOULD BE REAL INTERESTING.
YES...
PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO TELL US ALL ABOUT IT NOW, MS. WALTERS...
HM...?
WH-WHAT ...?
SURRENDER, SHE-HULK!
YOU HAVE NO WILL, NO MIND.
YOU NOW BELONG BODY AND SOUL...


...TO THE RINGMASTER!
THAT WAS TERRIFIC, BOSS! SHE NEVER EVEN SAW YOU COMING!
BUT...ARE YOU SURE SHE'S ZAPPED? AFTER WHAT I JUST SAW HER DO...
OF COURSE SHE IS "ZAPPED," AS YOU SO ELOQUENTLY PUT IT, BRUTO!
NO ONE CAN RESIST THE CYBER-WAVE GENERATED BY MY HYPNOTIC HAT!
THE SHE-HULK IS NOW MINE TO DO WITH AS I PLEASE!
WELL... NOT QUITE, MAYNARD. THERE'S STILL THE MATTER OF THE THREE MILLION BUCKS WE...
SHUT UP, ELIOT!
THAT MONEY IS AS GOOD AS IN THE BANK, BUT WE WILL EARN IT IN A MANNER OF MY CHOOSING!
THE CIRCUS OF CRIME MAY BE FOR HIRE... BUT ONLY ON MY TERMS!



'Twas the day before Christmas,
And all through the town
Fandom was stirring,
Writing things down.

Countless letters to Santa
From readers galore.
Some asked for a little,
Some asked for much more.

I'd like to show you
Just what you might find
On a Marvelite's list.
(And they're the best kind)

The following items
Are all recommended
So if you have a friend
Hey, buy one and send it!

We have to start somewhere
So why not start here?
We all want DAREDEVIL,
the Man Without Fear!

If you like colorful teams
It's AVENGERS for you.
East Coast or West Coast
Only we'd give you two!

If webs are your thing
Then SPIDEY's your choice.
With a half-dozen titles
You've cause to rejoice!

And how about mutants?
Is it true that we seek
To keep cloning THE X-MEN
With new titles each week?

THE PUNISHER's movie
Is coming to town,
And woe to the critic
Who gives him thumbs down!

Only at Marvel
Could there be such a bind.
Who's the real CAPTAIN
AMERICA?
We can't make up our mind!

He can soar thru the cosmos
Zapping all sorts of foes.
But the poor SILVER SURFER
Can't find any clothes!

Who can remember
Those dim days of yore,
When Reed, Sue, Ben, and Johnny,
Were the FANTASTIC FOUR?

Here's to ol' Shellhead,
Our walking tin can.
For his identity crisis
You can blame IRON MAN!

I'll tell you a secret
Though it may sound inane,
THOR, God of Thunder,
Can't stand the rain!

And speaking of secrets
Here's one rather newish,
It's whispered that CONAN
Really is Jewish!

But for culture and breeding,
Regardless of bulk,
There's only one choice—
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

When we dropped Sgt. Fury
'Twas a shattering blow.
But now everything's cool,
'Cause we've got G.I. JOE!

I could go on forever
Each one is the best.
But time's running out
So let's just name the rest. . .

There's BLACK PANTHER
and 'NAM,
And ALF, SPEEDBALL,
and GROO,
POWER PACK and
TRANSFORMERS,
To name just a few.

Then there's EPIC and STAR
Our lines for old and for young.
But I just thought of something
For which I could be hung!

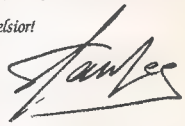
Of all of the titles
On this luminous list,
There's one I've omitted
It almost was missed!

How crass and ironic,
At this critical stage,
To have sorely neglected
Our own MARVEL AGE!

Well, that does it, I guess,
Except for this final jot—
We'll award a new NO-PRIZE
For the rest I forgot!

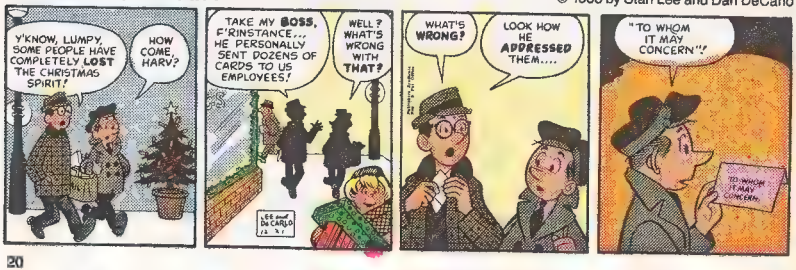
Now rejoice and enjoy.
Happy Holiday to all!
May your New Year be wondrous,
May your life be a ball!

Excelsior!



WILLIE LUMPKIN

© 1988 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo


Y'KNOW, LUMPY, SOME PEOPLE HAVE COMPLETELY LOST THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!
HOW COME, HARV?
TAKE MY BOSS, F'RINSTANCE... HE PERSONALLY SENT DOZENS OF CARDS TO US EMPLOYEES!
WELL? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
LEE and DeCARLO 12-87
WHAT'S WRONG?
LOOK HOW HE APPRESSED THEM....
"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN":

DAMAGE CONTROL™

Hey, Lieutenant! You ain't gonna believe what just happened. A fifty foot monster just trounced through Times Square! It's a real mess!

So what's the big deal, Malone? After the Inferno business, that sounds like a Sunday school picnic. Call the Avengers or something.

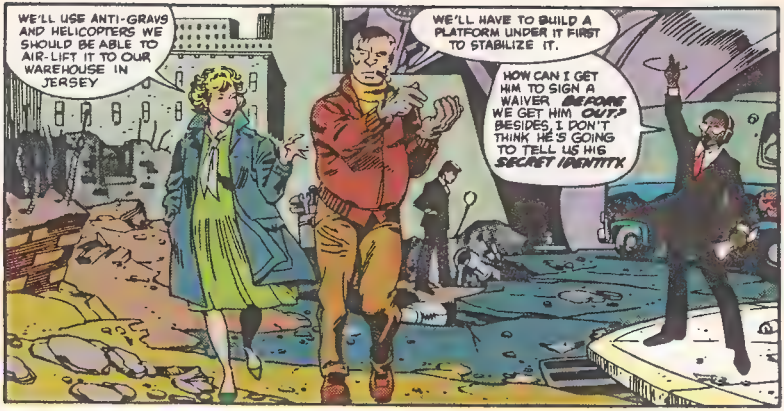
Oh, the Fantastic Four have already taken care of the monster. It's the thirty smashed cars and the bus strewn all over the place, not to mention large chunks of buildings, that I'm worried about. Traffic's backed up for blocks. And it's rush hour!

I see your point. Okay, I'll call Damage Control.

Damage Control! They're the ultimate entrepreneurs of the Marvel Universe. If you've got super heroes and you've got super villains, then you've also got a lot of property damage! When **Surtur's** minions march through Manhattan, when **the Red Skull's** latest **Sleeper** is activated, when **Galactus** comes for a visit—someone has to clean up. That's what Damage Control does. They clean up—for a price. (They must have made a fortune during the Inferno!)

Damage Control is useful not only to the municipal authorities, not only to the super heroes, but even to super villains. When **Thunderball** lost his wrecking ball, he went to Damage Control. Even **Dr. Doom** has an account.

Damage Control is first and foremost a business. When you walk into their impressive offices, the first thing you'll see is the receptionist. She'll probably be on the phone, saying


WE'LL USE ANTI-GRAVS AND HELICOPTERS WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO AIR-LIFT IT TO OUR WAREHOUSE IN JERSEY
WE'LL HAVE TO BUILD A PLATFORM UNDER IT FIRST TO STABILIZE IT.
HOW CAN I GET HIM TO SIGN A WAIVER BEFORE WE GET HIM OUT? BESIDES, I DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO TELL US HIS SECRET IDENTITY.

something like this:

Yeah, Meredith, I went out with him. What an animal! He had his hand on my knee as soon as I sat down! I told him to stop. He told me he always squeezes tomatoes. . .Hold on a second, Meredith. . .Hi, Reed. Yeah, we retrieved your whosis from the bay. You can pick it up anytime. Hey, don't thank me, Reed. Wait until you see the bill.

While Damage must have quietly existed in the Marvel Universe for years, thanks to **Dwayne McDuffie**, **Ernie Colon** and **Bob Wiacek**, it's now the latest Limited Series from Marvel!

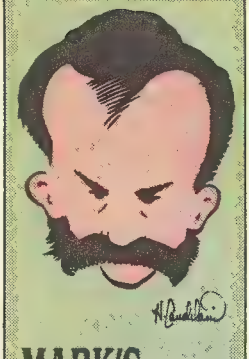
The idea for DAMAGE CONTROL came from an episode of the *Batman* television show. As Dwayne explains, "I was watching the old Batman TV show and there was a bit where, after the Batmobile dropped a drag chute, a big van marked 'Bat Drag-Chute Pick-Up and Dry-Cleaning Service' (or some such) rolled up and whisked the discarded chute away. I remember thinking, 'Okay, so Batman's tidy. What about all of the rest of the super groups wandering around?'"

Dwayne is extremely excited about the series. He's particularly pleased with the art team. Ernie Colon and Bob Wiacek are among his favorite artists. "I couldn't ask for anything better," Dwayne told MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. For his part, Ernie loves working on the book. "It's the only book that deals with cause and effect," he told MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. "In all the other books you have people flying around and breaking things and nobody's concerned with all the damage. That's what DAMAGE CONTROL'S about—cause and effect." He did have some reservations about Dwayne. "I hate him," he complained. "He's so young and talented it wouldn't be so bad if he were young and stupid."

DAMAGE CONTROL is very much an ensemble book. There are a number of characters with different jobs doing their own things to achieve a common goal—a debris-free New York and a profitable fiscal year for the company. Among the DAMAGE CONTROL cast are **John Porter**, the new account executive who has to figure out what to do with a giant robot and who helps **the Thing** solve his insurance problems; **Robin Chapel**, the traffic coordinator, who keeps track of where everybody is and what they're doing; **Albert the Comptroller**, who, along with **Bart**, the college intern, must figure out how to collect a long-unpaid bill from **Dr. Doom**; and of course, the boss, **Mrs. Hoag**. These guys are really on the ball. They face many unbelievable challenges. For example, there was the time when the X-Men's mansion was destroyed and, because of the Shi'ar technology built into it, started to rebuild itself—with materials from the neighbors' houses. Or the time when—oh, you get the picture.

So if a giant monster stomps on your house, you know who to call. Call Damage Control!

—*Sandy Hausler, J.D.*



MARK'S REMARKS

For the second installment of Mark's Remarks for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, I can think of no better topic to discuss than that very term that gives this magazine its name—the Marvel Age. Newer Marvel-mavens may not realize it, but the expression "the Marvel Age of Comics" has been around for quite a while, al- ost since the dawn of (ahem) the Marvel Age of Comics with the publication of FANTASTIC FOUR #1, cover dated November 1961. The first printed citation of the term "Marvel Age" I can find is on the cover of FF #20, though I'd welcome earlier references if my research is slipping. The expression heralded a trendsetting new era in comics history, a time when the comic book super hero reinvented itself, thanks to the unfettered imaginations of a trio of comics legends by the names of **Lee**, **Kirby**, and **Ditko**.

So is that it? Everything to be said about the topic of the Marvel Age of Comics all in one paragraph? Probably. But I never let minor things like that stop me once I get going. First, I'm going to do a little archaeological digging and try to figure out where this notion of "ages" came from in the first place. Some of you may have heard the expressions "Golden Age of Comics" and "Silver Age of Comics," both of which predated the term "Marvel Age." Perhaps some of you even wondered where those terms came from and what they meant. Well, what those terms mean is pretty easy. "Golden Age" generally refers to comics published from 1938, the year **Superman** first appeared, to around 1951 when the first boom in super hero comics went bust. The "Silver Age" generally refers to comics published from 1956, the year the Golden Age hero the **Flash** was revived in a totally new incarnation, to some time in the late 1960s—the end of this era signaled perhaps by Stan Lee splitting up the two feature books like TALES OF SUSPENSE into their component feature books, IRON MAN and CAPTAIN AMERICA or when DC dismissed its first-generation comics writers (such as **Gardner Fox** and **John Broome**) and brought in a fresh crop of talent. Curiously, the five year interval between the Golden and Silver Age never had a label that caught on, nor has there been a generally accepted term for post-Silver Age era comics.

But where did these metallic names for comics eras come from? Aha, that I actually know. Two places, as a matter of fact. The first is the Greek philosopher, **Hesiod**, who was describing the history of mankind on Earth as a series of eras, each of which was of less value than the last. He believed that the quality of life throughout history was on a downward slide with the encroachment of civilization and all it encompasses. Hesiod identified five eras of history: the Golden Age, the Silver Age, the Brass (or Bronze) Age, the Heroic Age, and the Iron Age. It's interesting to compare Hesiod's schemata to a certain Biblical passage in the Book of Daniel (2:31-43) wherein the sixth century B.C. Babylonian king **Nebuchadnezzar** had the prophet **Daniel** interpret his dream image of a giant statue with the head made of gold, the chest and arms made of silver, the stomach and thighs made of bronze, the legs made of iron, and the feet made of clay. (Wanna bet that's where the expression "feet of clay" came from?) Daniel interpreted this dream in terms of a succession of historical eras leading to the end of the world. Daniel's gold-silver-bronze-iron-clay analogy is pretty darn close to Hesiod's gold-silver-brass-heroic-iron one, eh? These two pessimistic individuals must have been on the same wavelength.

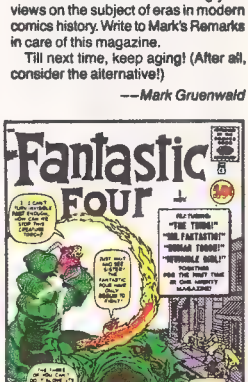
Anyway, the "Golden Age" of anything has come to mean that halcyon time when something was new and had not been tarnished by time and progress. I've always found it curious that whoever coined the terms "Golden Age" and "Silver Age" in reference to the comics medium stopped there, and never got around to defining the subsequent ages. Hey, you know what? I'm going to! This is my column, after all, and I can do what I want, **Jim Salicrup** willing. Okay. Let's see. . .so the Silver Age I contend ends around 1968. The Bronze Age of Comics I'd say begins properly with Jack Kirby's migration from Marvel to DC around 1970 and ends a mere five or so years later with Jack's return to Marvel. During the Bronze Age, the medium faced an onslaught of monsters and martial artists, few of which survived the end of the five-year era by very long.

The Heroic Age of Comics I'd begin around 1978 or so, when MICRONAUTS and SHOGUN WARRIORS burst on the scene, heraiding the era of toy tie-in books. Besides these outside-market influences on the various companies' product lines, this age was noted for its plethora of spin-off heroes, such as **Ms. Marvel**, **Spider-Woman**, and **She-Hulk**, the Limited Series concept, and for the high-concept mass crossover, beginning with CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS in 1982 and continuing with SECRET WARS (itself a toy tie-in) and DC's CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS, etc. I'd say the Heroic Age is virtually over—it's hard to tell with trends when you're sitting right on top of them—and the next era, the Iron Age of Comics, has begun. I'd characterize the Iron Age so far as the time when a plethora of "independent" comics companies began to make the field as diverse as it was back in comics' heyday, the Golden Age.

That's my view anyway. Undoubtedly being a card-carrying Marvel staffer for the past eleven years has skewed my perspective somewhat, so mine will not be the most unbiased viewpoint you could find. But as far as I know no one else has tried to define the post-Silver Age eras of this great medium of ours, so somebody had to do it. I'd be interested in hearing your views on the subject of eras in modern comics history. Write to Mark's Remarks in care of this magazine.

Till next time, keep aging! (After all, consider the alternative!)

—Mark Gruenwald



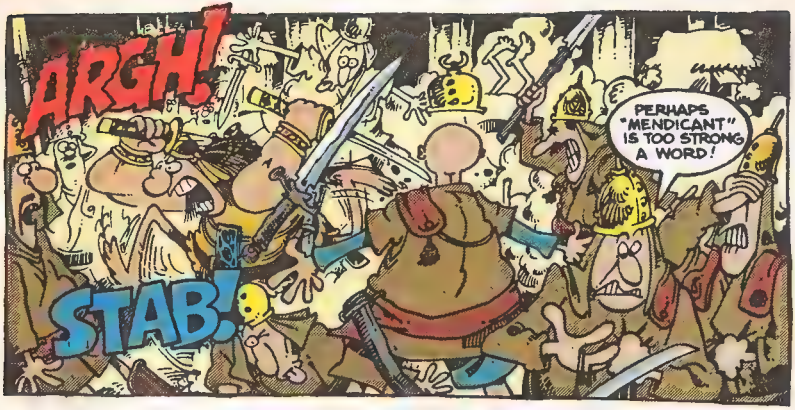
THE GROO™ CHRONICLES

GROO © and TM 1988 by Sergio Aragonés.

He's captured the hearts of stupidity-lovers everywhere. with his regular monthly book—and now he'll be starring in a cheese dip-filled companion series! He's **Sergio Aragonés'** GROO THE WANDERER, about to storm your newsstand not only in his Epic Comics title, but also in the forthcoming Limited Series, THE GROO CHRONICLES!

For those of you who came in late, the world's dumbest barbarian has been an Epic Comics hit for nearly five years now. But before Sergio and **Groo** came to Marvel/Epic, Groo's adventures were published by both Pacific and Eclipse Comics. Those early issues of GROO are scarce high-priced items, now—Pacific's sadly gone out of business, and Eclipse's back issue stock of GROO is sold out. But THE GROO CHRONICLES will represent those early tales in a new quality format; as Groo-sillographer **Mark Evanier** puts it, it's "a high-class publication of some low-class stories!"

THE GROO CHRONICLES will run for six issues, 48 pages each, on Baxter stock, with completely new coloring done by **Tom Luth**, and the same comic craziness from Sergio and Mark that you've come to know and love. Included in this peerless package are such classic sagas as how Groo got his sword, his first meeting with **Chakaal**, and even his rare appearance from Pacific's STARSLAYER #6!



It's a veritable treasure trove of pre-civilization silliness!

Far from being just a reprint collection, THE GROO CHRONICLES contains more: cutouts, games, new covers, new frontispieces, new introductions, and even new secret messages for the stories that didn't contain them the first time around! Each issue will be unpredictable, as Sergio himself explains: "I wanted to do a companion book for Groo that I could play around with, experiment with. With 22 pages in the regular book, there's not that much room in which to play!

It'll be work rather than play, though, for Groo colorist Tom Luth, whose assignment here may be one of the hardest jobs in comics. "It's totally crazy, the quantity of figures; it's my most enjoyable assignment," Tom says, "and yet when I see those million and one characters. . ." But the chance to expand the color range as allowed by the different format, to literally double the number of colors on a page, was too interesting to pass up!

There's more than just nostalgia and the chance to offer those old stories again to new readers that prompts the publication of THE GROO CHRONICLES, though. The re-presentation of these stories also gives Sergio and Mark the opportunity for fine-tuning and improvements. "A color separator on the early stories put this blood everywhere," says Sergio. "He figured it's a barbarian comic, so he went ahead and put it in. We've fixed that, for one thing."

Mark adds, "In those first issues, Groo occasionally did something with a gram of intelligence to it. So we've been able to go back and eliminate all vestiges of intellect." Groo's legendary stupidity is, for Mark, one of the facets that has made the book so popular—

"We all know people like this, we've had to live life surrounded by people like Groo—and there's a little bit of Groo in all of us, as well. We've even started a contest for Groo-isms in the letters page, to see who submits the best anecdotes of the stupidest things they've seen people do. I, for example, recently received a check from DC Comics for penciling an issue of GREEN LANTERN!"

Mark promises the special features in THE GROO CHRONICLES will be far more than any other book on the market will give you, pointing with pride to one text piece that tells the secret truth about Sergio Aragonés and actress **Jayne Kennedy**! But then, GROO THE WANDERER—the regular monthly book—is also such a unique series, says Mark: "we give you hidden messages, catch-phrases, and the snidest letters page in comics—what else do you want out of life?"

The regular GROO series will have its share of upcoming amazements, needless to say. Issue #50 features the return of Chakaal, issue #51 tells of the Valley of the Maas and the Menos, and a feud which Groo sets out to solve (only making it worse, of course), and issue #52 delivers the debut of **El Arana**, a spider roughly the size of the Chrysler Building whom Groo and Chakaal must dispatch or die!

And then there's the new Groo graphic novel, still in the planning stages for next summer! Tentatively titled THE LIFE OF GROO (a fitting bookend with last year's THE DEATH OF GROO Graphic Novel), it'll look at Groo's birth, his childhood, his first mission. Groo's parents will put him up for adoption, as will his first set of adopted parents, and his second set, and his third set—we'll meet an amazing array of people who did not want to raise Groo!

"We discovered," Mark tells, "that colorist Tom Luth was picking up speed! Although Groo takes four times longer to color than any other book, Tom was actually finding the time to leave the house! So we've launched THE GROO CHRONICLES to keep him busy, and if he does have any more free time after that, there'll be the new Graphic Novel! We're doing it all for Tom, really."

THE LIFE OF GROO, with its terrifyingly comic vision of the young barbarian, should prove conclusively that you don't necessarily get smarter as you get older. In fact, if Groo has changed at all over the years, both Mark and Sergio agree, he's gotten dumber!

"When I created him," says Sergio, "he wasn't that dumb! But a character takes on a life of his own, and as he's grown, we've realized he really is that stupid!"

Part of Groo's strength, of course, is not just the monumental dimensions of his stupidity, but the fact that he's been lucky enough to be blessed with creators who love writing his adventures. Sergio, Mark, and Tom have been a constant team for five years now—how many comics can boast a writer/artist/colorist team of such devotion?

Mark reflects, "We love doing this book, we'll keep doing it till we run out of ideas—though some people will say we did that in issue #4! No one else will ever do this book, just us. We'll stay on GROO until we're old men and a whole new generation that hasn't caught onto our jokes is reading." If THE GROO CHRONICLES is the success it promises to be, that new generation will only grow and grow.

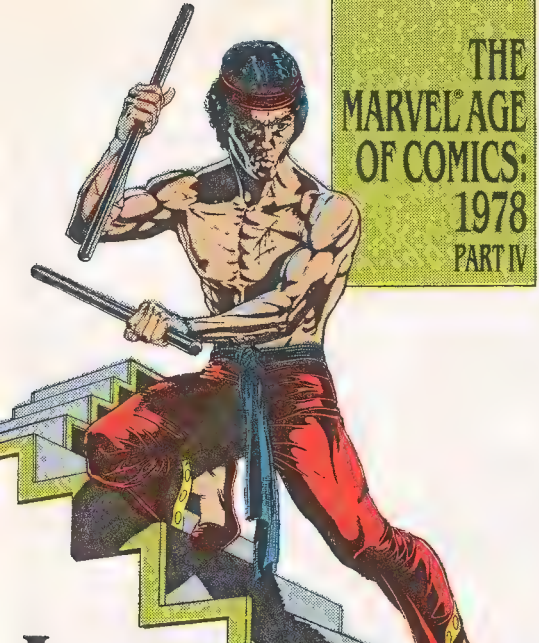
—Brian Nelson

© 1988 Fred Hembeck

THESE SPIDER-HAM PAGES LOOK FINE, FRED..
THANKS, I--
IS HE HERE, YET, JIM? HUH? IS HE?
NO, HE'S NOT, SPIDER-MAN, BUT YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW WHEN HE IS.
OH, OKAY.
JUST SET, HANG IN THERE..
NOW, AS I WAS SAYING, THE ONE PROBLEM I DO HAVE WITH THIS IS PORKER'S STATURE--HE SHOULD DEFINITELY BE SHORTER THAN MICHAEL DUKAKIS, NOT TALLER...
HEY, SALACRUP--
YIPES!
--IS THE JOLLY OLD MAN HERE YET?
NOT YET, HULK. I'LL CALL YOU.
BAH, HUMBUG!
--HMMM?..
WHAT'S GOING ON, JIM? I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY CHARACTERS ROAMING THE OFFICES IN ALL MY TIMES UP HERE!
THEN YOU'VE NEVER BEEN UP HERE AT CHRISTMAS TIME, HAVE YOU?..
SOON, REED.
THANKS.
MARVEL CHARACTERS ARE JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE; SO WHY SHOULD THEY BE IMMUNE TO THE FESTIVITIES OF THE SEASON?..
HEY! I THINK I SEE HIM!
EACH YEAR AT THIS TIME, THEY ALL GATHER HERE TO HAVE FAVORS BESTOWED ON THEM FROM THAT JOLLY OLD FELLOW IN THE RED SUIT.
OH?
...YOU MEAN OLD ST. NICK?
NO.
BETTER.
I'M TALKING ABOUT--
HE'S HERE! HE'S HERE!

--StanTA CLAUS!!
..AND A HOARY HO HO HO TO YOU MUNIFICENT MARVEL MADMEN! BE ADVISED THAT StanTA CLAUS HAS COME TO TOWN, AND HE KNOWS WHO'S BEEN NAUGHTY AND WHO'S BEEN NICE--BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, HE KNOWS WHO'S BEEN BORING!!!
COAL--AGAIN??
Season's Greetings and an X-CELSIOR X-MAS from FRED HEMBECK, JIM SALICRUP THE ENTIRE STAFF OF MARVEL AGE, AND, of course, MR. Stan Lee !!

THE MARVEL® AGE OF COMICS: 1978 PART IV



In 1978 I visited the Marvel offices for the first time, doing a piece on comics for my college paper. Among the luminaries I met was **Roger Stern**, and I smiled because behind him on the bulletin board was the cover to DR. STRANGE #28. Why so funny? The **In-Betweener** was menacing Doc, but Doc's thought balloon read (more or less): "Oh no! I'm not Dr. Strange, just Roger Stern, Doc's goofy stand-in! What do I DO?"

A silly story, yes, but one worth mentioning because in 1978 Stern took over the scripting of DOCTOR STRANGE, and began a classic run of sorcerous sagas. Stephen's conflict with **Stygyro**, **the Living Star**, was brought to a fast conclusion with the introduction of the In-Betweener. Then **Nighthawk** teamed with Doc against the **Death-Stalker**, and two issues later, **Sub-Mariner** guest-starred when Doc battled **Alaric the Immortal**! Threats from the ominous **Dweller in Darkness** and **Dream Weaver** (the latter a pawn of Nightmare) rounded out the year.

But the Master of the Mystic Arts did some guest-starring himself, most notably in GHOST RIDER, where he was faced with a hero who seemed as evil as any demon he ever battled. **Dormammu** threatened Dr. Strange and sent the **Ghost Rider** himself against his human alter ego, **Johnny Blaze**, in a pulse-stopping two-parter. The **Ghost Rider** also enjoyed a return engagement against the **Orb**, and sparring matches with the soul-catching **Bounty Hunter** and some macabre outer space cyclists!

Scanning the supernatural side of comics in '78, it's clear that it was the toughest year ever for **Dracula**, the Lord of Vampires. In TOMB OF DRACULA, he battled his own son, **Janus**, who seemed to have been possessed by an angel! Disavowing heaven, he was stalked from the other direction as well, when the kidnaped **Topaz** led Dracula to the doorway of Hell itself! There he battled **Satan**, who felled Drac by removing his vampiric powers and sentencing him to life as a mortal! With his vengeful daughter, **Lilith**, still chasing him, and the vampires of the world out to make sure he never regained his powers, how would Dracula survive? His desperate flight brought him back to Transylvania, where he was forced to take up the cross himself to save his life from the vampiric horde! **Marv Wolfman**, **Gene Colan**, and **Tom Palmer** continued their record-setting run on the horrific saga of a man, a demon, a villain, a hero despite it all, caught between the very forces of heaven and Hell!

Slightly less terrifying, but supernaturally tinged nonetheless, were the new adventures of SPIDER-WOMAN! Assisted by S.H.I.E.L.D. agent **Jerry Hunt** and the warlock named **Magnus**, **Jessica Drew** battled the sorceries of arch-enemy **Morgan Le Fey** and her pawn, **Excaliber**, and the arcane menaces of the **Brothers Grimm**, the **Hangman**, **Werewolf by Night**, and **the Man Who Could Not Die**! Though steered by Wolfman and **Carmine Infantino**, her last issue in '78 brought a new scripter to Marvel, whose quirky villains would make **Spider-Woman's** exploits even more unique. The scripter was **Mark Gruenwald**, and the first villain he set against Jessica was the disturbingly eerie man known as the **Needle**!

Another heroine starring in her own book was, of course, MS. MARVEL, and in '78 she explored a veritable labyrinth of mysterious threats hurled at her by scripter **Chris Claremont**. In Boston, **Carol** tackled the enigmatic **Sapper** (and his alien partner, who was never named and still awaits a return appearance). **Tiger Shark**, **Steeplejack**, and **Raven Darkholme** bowed as villains—the latter would be better known in the future as **Mystique**—and guest stars included **Namorita**, the **Avengers**, and the Kree **Captain Marvel**. Gaining her independence from Mar-Vell's memories, she designed a bold new costume for herself, and closed the year with the discovery of a victimized race of lizard-men living in secrecy beneath the Earth's crust!

As we think of offbeat heroes, we cannot forget the HUMAN FLY, the stunt-riding hero who really existed! (Whatever happened to him, anyway?) The masked samaritan saved scores of innocents from towering doom, amusement park panics, collapsing mines, and even the vigilante called **Copperhead**—with a helping hand from his guests, the **White Tiger** and **Daredevil**! Reporter **Harmony Whyte**, at first a skeptic, became one of the **Fly's** most loyal supporters as she watched him perform rescues in impossibly deep chasms, defeat terrorists in the Washington Monument, prevent nightmarish accidents at Niagara, and generally be the kind of guy about whom comics books could be written!

Another guy who could well have

MARVEL® COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Let's say that your monthly budget for comics is pressed thin—you need to economize. After you've bought your monthly allotment of Marvel Comics (the first priority, after all!), why not spend the rest of your dough on some inexpensive-and-fun back issues? They'll flesh out your collection, entertain you while you're at it, and save you bundles compared to the price of some current comics! Here's the scoop in this month's highlights, as listed in our perennial source, **Robert Overstreet's THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #18**. But remember: this is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and should be even less for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
■ **DOCTOR STRANGE**			
27-32		.65	1.30
■ **GHOST RIDER**			
28-33		.60	1.20
■ **HOWARD THE DUCK**			
20-28		.35	.70
■ **THE HUMAN FLY**			
5-16		.25	.50
■ **MASTER OF KUNG FU**			
60-71		.30	.60
■ **MS. MARVEL**			
13-21		.25	.50
■ **POWER MAN**			
49 (**Byrne** art)	.50	1.50	3.00
■ **POWER MAN AND IRON FIST**			
50 (**Byrne** art)	.50	1.50	3.00
51-54		.40	.80
■ **SPIDER-WOMAN**			
1		.50	1.00
2-9		.35	.70
■ **TOMB OF DRACULA**			
62-67		.35	.70

been real—if only he weren't the son of **Fu Manchu**—continued to thrive in '78. The writer/artist team of **Doug Moench** and **Mike Zeck** sent MASTER OF KUNG FU against **Dr. Doom** in the conclusion of another Latverian "chess game"—then it was off to China and intrigue with the **Skull-Crusher**, **Cat**, **Pavane**, **Juliette**, and the merciless **Kogar**. A multi-part epic that paid tribute to the South Seas adventures spun by **Milton Caniff** occupied most of the year, until **Shang-Chi** and his lady love, **Leiko Wu**, could return to the safety of London, snack on pizza, listen to **Fleetwood Mac** albums, and watch the new **Spielberg** movie (just in case you thought that MASTER OF KUNG FU was ever predictable!).

Shang-Chi's martial arts comrade, **Iron Fist**, had lost his book the year before. But there was hope a'borning still, as he teamed with another hero. One of the hottest new teams of 1978 was born as LUKE CAGE, POWER MAN changed its name to POWER MAN AND IRON FIST! The machinations of the crimelord known as **Bushmaster** brought **Luke** and **Danny Rand** together as **Heroes For Hire**, with a rich supporting cast that included **Misty Knight**, **Colleen Wing**, super-lawyer **Jeryn Hogarth**, and many more. They fought racketeer **Morgan**, the deadly **Nightshade**, and the robotic **Hero-Killer**, forging themselves into a team that would last for years until tragedy cut it unexpectedly short.

So we've been covering Marvel's offbeat heroes this month, you may have noticed—who could be more offbeat than HOWARD THE DUCK? His foes in '78 included **Sudd**, the scrubbing bubble that walks like a man—**SOOFI**, the monsters of censorship—and his arch-foe, **Dr. Bong**, who kidnaped **Howard's** beloved, **Beverly**, to take her as his wife! Months passed before Howard could initiate a rescue, during which he grew entangled in a mad satire of STAR WARS, "May the Farce Be With You," guest-starring **Man-Thing** and **Jennifer Kale**! The **Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime** also distracted Howard from his mission of mercy, a mission that would have to wait for '79, even despite the well-intentioned assistance of Howard's pals, **Paul Same** and **Winda Wester**. As always, it was inspired madness served up by Howard-creator **Steve Gerber**.

1978 also saw the passing of FOOM—the Friends of Ol' Marvel—Marvel's official fan club which had published 22 highly entertaining and informative issues of FOOM Magazine. Though not telling stories of the Marvel Universe, its features supplied ever-valuable information, most memorably in a two-issue interview with **Edwin Jarvis** about his years with the Avengers. But debuting in '78 was PIZZAZZ, a youth-oriented magazine that combined Marvel features with learning games and entertaining articles. Marvel was branching out, to be sure—returning even to Saturday morning, with the debut of the FANTASTIC FOUR cartoon show! And if you suspected this is a segue to next month's chapter, when we wrap up 1978 in a look at the FF and other teams, we'll send you some polish for your Merry Marvel Marching Society card! See you then!

—Brian Nelson

LUCK BE A MUTANT TONIGHT

Send your letters to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE
% Marvel Entertainment Group, 387 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS:
All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info on request!

This month's snappy letter column title comes to us courtesy of Lon Wolf of Maple Shade, N.J. Lon's not only got a great name (and how is your pal "Cub," Lon?), but he also describes himself by saying, "I'm not a Marvel Zombie—I'm more like a half-breed DC fanatic and independent sampler with a very huge dose of Marvel half-deadness. . .sorta like a Marvel Friendly Ghost." You sound like our kinda guy, pal. Welcome aboard!

Anyway, before we take Lon's title to heart and roll the dice to see what sort of mail comes up this month, we want to take a second to remind everyone out there that we're still on a never-ending quest for the finest letters column title to be found on this or any other planet. So if you think you've got one of those precious few (or even if yours is just pretty snazzy), send it on in! If we use it, we'll even print your name in this space as our way of saying "thanks!" Remember, Andy Warhol said that in the future, everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes. So who knows? This might just be your chance! (Then again, it also might not, but isn't it worth the stamp to find out?)

Dear MARVEL AGErs,

I very much enjoy reading MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE and the PROfiles in each of your monthly books. I have a suggestion for a new column: "Whatever Happened to. . .?", telling about the current whereabouts of people who used to help create Marvel books, or possibly even some rarely-seen Marvel Universe characters, like "Whatever Happened to Willie Lumpkin?"

Keep up the good work, guys, and until **Fred Hembeck** and **Brother Voodoo** start hanging out together, Make Mine Marvel.

Todd Frye
P.O. Box 8
Arthur, TN 37707

Willie Lumpkin, eh? Well, Todd, we hope you caught this year's FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL which featured the FF's hardworking mailman. And be sure to check out MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #18 on sale this month which has Willie in the starring role of a wacky send-up of Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol."

Actually, your idea for occasional articles about past Marvel creators sounds pretty interesting to us, Todd. So let's throw the question open to everyone else out there. Would you like to see articles about erstwhile creators from time to time? Write in and let us know.

Also, we hope you've been catching our occasional spotlights on old characters (like the Champions article we ran several issues back), as well as following The Marvel Age of Comics history column we run every month. We love our old characters as much as you do, so we're always glad for a chance to visit them now and then. . .even though they just say the same thing whenever we do—"How come you never call? Fin Fang Foom's nephew, Barney, calls him all the time. . ."

Dear Marvel,

In one of your letters columns, you said that the **Sub-Mariner** was a mutant due to the wings on his feet. I don't get it. Doesn't everyone have wings on their feet? I do.

Oliver Pulistic
219 Eighth St.
Bethpage, NY 11714

Sorry for the confusion, Oliver. Of course, you're right—Namor has wings on his feet just like you or us. What we meant to say was that Namor is a mutant due to the wings on *his wheat*. Namor's got the genetically-induced power to grow aerodynamically correct grain.

Hope that clears everything up.

(Ever get the feeling that we could really benefit from some serious psychiatric care?)

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

Why doesn't **Spider-Man** get a costume like **Power Pack's** that changes back and forth quickly? It would save him a lot of time changing.

Sean Purdy
N. 11820 Bedivere Dr.
Spokane, WA 99218

To tell you the truth, Sean, Spidey had a costume like that for a while, and it did save him a lot of time changing. Trouble was, the costume also turned out to be an alien parasite which nearly took over the wall-crawler's body! You can find the whole story in the SPIDER-MAN: THE SAGA OF THE ALIEN COSTUME Trade Paperback, available at your local comics specialty shop or book store.

Hey, after an experience like that, we figure the poor guy would be *glad* to wear some normal clothes for a change!

Here comes the yellow again! No, that doesn't mean you should jump out into the street and start waving your arms and whistling. What's coming is something even rarer than a vacant taxi cab in Manhattan. It's our LETTER OF THE MONTH!

Every month, we reach deep into our voluminous mailsacks and pull out a letter (or sometimes even two) that we think will be of particular interest to the ranks of Marveldom. Then we print it right here against a yellow background cheery enough to chase away the blues on even the cloudiest of days! (Jeez, we've gotta stop watching those 24-hour Snow White marathons.)

This month's letter brings up one correspondent's concerns about comics characters being translated to the big screen.

Dear Sirs,

Even when I have good subjects to write about, I never write to comic book letters columns. So it took something that greatly concerned me to get me to write in.

This is about **Dolph Lundgren** playing **the Punisher** in the PUNISHER motion picture. I'm sick and tired of

seeing Marvel (and yes, even DC) characters being shamed in dumb movies or shows which give 'em a bad rep. Although some of the shows/movies might not be that bad, they don't do the characters any justice. I thought it was bad when **Doctor Strange's** and **Captain America's** origins were screwed up, but what they did to **Thor** was unbelievable. How can someone screw up Norse mythology?

Does Marvel have any say in this or do the movie people have all the power? If Marvel does have some influence, please make sure that the Punisher is portrayed correctly with the right hair color and costume. I also think that his voice should be dubbed.

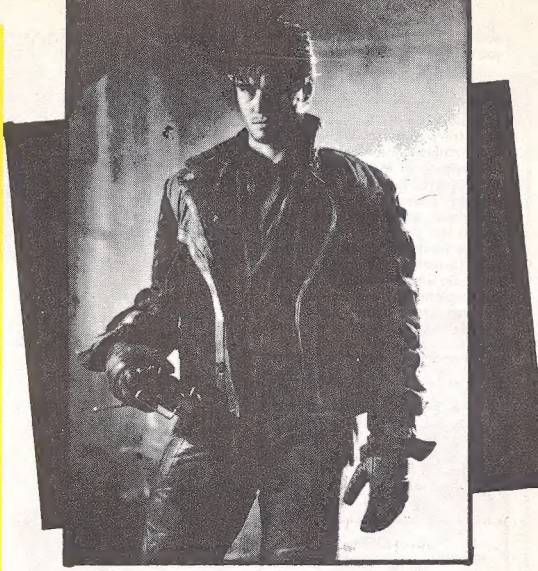
Make Mine Marvel. . .the right way.

Brian Berlanga

Well, Brian, by now, you've probably seen the photos of Dolph Lundgren as the Punisher which we printed last month. We hope you agree with us that while he might not be wearing a skin-tight costume, he does look pretty darn good. and rest easy; PUNISHER editor Carl Potts has read the film's screenplay, and he assures us that the Punisher's film origin is true to the story as we all know from the comics.

Now because each television and movie project is different, the amount of say we might have varies. We think Stan himself said it best in his Soapbox in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #70 when he wrote, ". . .one of the thorniest problems in adapting any novel or any comic book hero for the screen is figuring out what to change and what to leave intact. Sometimes the movie version is so different from the original format that it's almost unrecognizable." The best way to make sure the adaptation remains true to the original is to get the best talent you can. And New World did for THE PUNISHER movie.

So hang in there and check out the PUNISHER movie when it comes to your local theater. And then let us know what you think, okay?



Dear Sirs,

I have wanted to write this letter for some time, but have quietly assumed that you knew what you were doing with my favorite character. Now, I am not so sure.

What are you doing with **Moon Knight**?

After eight years without a single comic book, a friend reintroduced me to the jet and silver **Avenger**. Now, two years later, I own his every appearance.

The MOON KNIGHT: FIST OF KHONSHU series was the worst abuse of a finely crafted comic book character in the history of comic books. It frustrated me to no end. When Marc Spector joined the **West Coast Avengers**, I fully expected to see this pale version of my favorite character. But I bought the magazine anyway, solely because it contained Moon Knight. Delighted, I realized that some smart people were slowly returning Moon Knight to the costume and character that made him great (the ankh removed in favor of the crescent moon, the struggle to keep control over the other personalities now buried in his brain. . .). All that was left was to make the personality conflict work, reintroduce **Frenchie**, and make his costume all jet and silver again, getting rid of the ridiculous gold stuff. Even the relationship with **Tigra** was pleasing, as we all know that Moon Knight needs a woman who can take care of herself and then some.

But suddenly, Khonshu began to speak to Marc Spector. Okay, maybe it was his unstable mind playing tricks on him again? Nope. Maybe Khonshu is just visiting to help out?..Nope. All I can say is put the "Khonshu inhabiting his body" storyline (except for the purpose of keeping him alive and a hero) in the circular file. Get rid of it. Give Marc Spector his body back. Not only that, but bring Moon Knight back to the personality, character, and look that made him special in the first place. Then give back his own book; canceling it in the first place was madness. What we need is the gritty street hero we used to know with a dash of mysticism thrown in. Sort of **Doctor Strange meets the Punisher**. Just for good measure, make it 32 pages, no ad, and call it simply MOON KNIGHT. Then get **Doug Moench** and **Bill Sienkiewicz** to work on it and you've got a best seller. And if they won't do it, call me and I'll write it for free.

Christopher Golden
36 Fox Hill Rd.
Framingham, MA 01701

Well, Christopher, it may not be Doug Moench and Bill Sienkiewicz (both of whom are pretty busy with their own projects these days), but would you settle for an all-new MOON KNIGHT series written by SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN scripter Chuck Dixon and illustrated by Sal Velluto and Mark Farmer? We sure hope so, because that's what's coming your way in just a few short months!

We're going to be previewing the series in depth in the 74th issue of a certain official Marvel news-magazine (Darn, we never can seem to remember its name!), so you'll probably want to keep your eyes open to pick up on all the details. Meanwhile, we don't want to give too much away, but we will say this: If you're looking for the gritty street hero Moon Knight used to be,

well, let's just say that we think you're in for a pleasant surprise. . .

Uh oh, the ol' clock on the wall says that it's that time again. But before we give this letter column its dinner and put it back into its cage for the night, we want to take a minute to welcome a heaping new helping of MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS! Yup, it's those happy-go-lucky Marvel Correspondents, gregarious guys and gals from around the globe who are looking for new friends and pals de plume (which is really bad French for "pen pals"). So why not invest the stamp and drop one or two of them a line? It's even better than a party line, and you don't have to pay by the minute!

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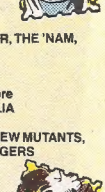
11 I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) Janet Pezzuto, Business Manager

MARVEL® CORRESPONDENTS

If you want to be listed in this space, simply send your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel series to Marvel Correspondents at the address high atop this letters column.

Now settle back in your chair, and say hello to this month's Marvel Correspondents!

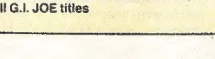


Mike Rogers
59 Riverview Dr.
Tell City, IN 47586
Age: 14
Favorites: PUNISHER, THE 'NAM, WOLVERINE

Matthew Schofield
9 Sophia St., Kenmore
QLD 4069 AUSTRALIA
Age: 16
Favorites: X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS, WEST COAST AVENGERS

Ken Church
RD 1 Box 1473
Spring Grove, PA 17362
Age: 15
Favorites: X-MEN, X-FACTOR, G.I. JOE

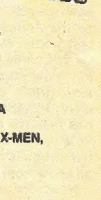
Philippe Capet
73 Rue Brillat-Sayatin
75013 Paris FRANCE
Age: 14
Favorites: X-FACTOR, EXCALIBUR, X-MEN



Mike Stamps
4605 Flintlock Dr.
Louisville, KY 40216
Age: 15
Favorites: WEST COAST AVENGERS, SOLO AVENGERS, IRON MAN

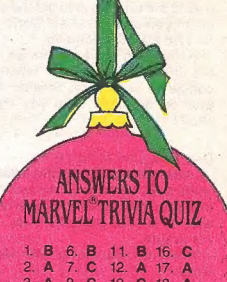
Jim Pacheco
12 Lancaster Rd.
Dollard-Des-Ormeaux, Quebec
H9B 1J9 CANADA
Age: 16
Favorites: X-FACTOR, PUNISHER, all G.I. JOE titles

Steven Ooi
4, Pemimpin Place
Coral Park
Singapore 2057
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
Age: 14
Favorites: PUNISHER, THOR, DAREDEVIL



Martin Eden
21 Little Hardwick Rd.
Strectly, West Midlands
W59 O5D ENGLAND
Age: 13
Favorites: X-MEN, DP 7, X-FACTOR

Adam Norman
71 Condada Ave.
Parkholme 5043
S. Australia AUSTRALIA
Age: 14
Favorites: AVENGERS, X-MEN, X-FACTOR



Nick Kourzous
131 Robina Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M6C-3Y8 CANADA
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